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Ward 2's Chio Resigns From Ashland City Council

By Haley Bradfield

Ashland Ward 2 Councilman Jason Chio announced his resignation during the November 3 Ashland City Council meeting. Chio has served the city as a firefighter, school board member and councilman over the past 28 years. He will step down December 31, 2026, due to other work commitments.

A Ward 2 resident will be appointed to complete Chio's term, which expires December 31, 2029. Council will accept letters of interest and resumes through November 20.

Council approved a contract with Simonson Construction for the development of Freedom Plaza on Fourth Street, at a cost not to exceed $250,000. Plans include 40 poles surrounding the green space behind the monument for banners honoring area veterans.

Council also approved selling an Ashland Police Department vehicle to the Loudonville Police Department for $500. The vehicle, used for undercover investigations, is no longer needed. The sale does not require advertising or bidding.

Council tabled an ordinance concerning the possible sale of property near the Industrial Park at the potential purchaser's request. The matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Finance Director Larry Paxton reviewed year-end transfers and then-and-now certificates.

Council corrected the date of a public hearing concerning alley and right-of-way vacations to Tuesday, December 1, instead of December 2.

Council members expressed concerns about residents piling leaves in streets, citing hazards for motorcyclists and other drivers and potential storm drain clogs. Members also discussed complaints about e-bikes and scooters and reminded riders to follow traffic laws and exercise caution.

Mayor Matt Miller announced several upcoming events. The annual Mayor's Veterans Breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 11, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Eagles Club, 400 Eastlake Drive, Ashland. Candy Cane Trail at Freer Field opens Sunday, November 29, at 6 p.m. The Ashland Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 5, at 6 p.m., followed by the downtown tree lighting.

The next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the Municipal Building, 206 Claremont Ave. Meetings are open to the public and livestreamed on YouTube.



Ashland Ward 2 Councilman Jason Chio announced his resignation during the November 3 City Council meeting. From left are Mayor Matt Miller, Council President Steve Workman, Chio and Councilman Dennis Miller. Photo by Haley Bradfield

Ashland Commissioners Approve Budget Adjustments

By Amanda Chambers

The Ashland County Commissioners approved budget adjustments, financial matters and maintenance agreements during their November 5 meeting.

Commissioners authorized transfers totaling $47,250.04 among various county departments for current and anticipated expenses. The transfers included Buildings and Grounds, Common Pleas Court, Community Control and Juvenile Felony Custody.

The board approved appropriations for tax distributions and current grant expenses, including $52,324.49 for commissioners' contract services, which will be repaid when the grant draw is received.

Commissioners also reduced the Sheriff Opioid Fund's wage appropriation by $50,000 to align the budget with anticipated 2026 revenue.

Other business included authorizing Then and Now certifications and payment of warrants for Buildings and Grounds and the commissioners' office, as well as approving travel requests.

The board approved a $35 monthly agreement with MAD Elevator for emergency phone answering services for the county office building elevator.

Commissioners also accepted a $1,270.75 estimate from Point Security for annual maintenance and a radiation survey of the courthouse X-ray machine.

The board canceled its meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, due to a lack of agenda items.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday, November 12, 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.

Shultz Reaches Career Milestone

Staff Report

The Loudonville High School volleyball team's season came to an end October 26 with a 3-0 loss (22-25, 23-25, 10-25) to Waynedale in a Division VI district semifinal.

"We gave it a good fight the first two sets and had opportunities," coach Jen Johnson said. "It just didn't go our way. We are proud of our Lady Birds and the season they had."

The Redbirds finished the season with a 19-5 record.

Senior Sophie Shultz led the attack with 13 kills, reaching the 1,000-career-kills milestone. She finished her career with 1,003 kills and holds school records for single-match kills (31), single-season kills (375) and career kills.

Senior Helaina Gray led the team with 25 receptions and 14 digs against Waynedale.

Juniors Ruth Bitner and Ella Vermilya each recorded seven service points. Vermilya led the team with 13 assists, followed by freshman Aria Van Horn with eight.

The match marked the end of the high school careers for seniors Shultz and Gray.



Loudonville High School senior Sophie Shultz (center, in red) celebrates reaching 1,000 career kills with her teammates. Submitted Photo

Ashland Finishes Season at Regionals

By Dan Chandler

The Ashland Arrows boys and girls cross country teams concluded their 2026 seasons at the OHSAA Division II Northwest Regional Championships on October 31 at Hedges-Boyer Park in Tiffin.

Sophomore Oliver Watson led the Ashland boys with a 19th-place finish in 16:18.2, narrowly missing qualification for the OHSAA State Championships by just one-tenth of a second in a photo finish.

Senior Hunter Smith placed 96th in 17:59.8, followed by sophomore Austin Metzger in 102nd place in 18:09.0 and senior Brayden Burgett in 103rd in 18:11.3. Junior Oscar Parillo finished 123rd in 18:37.2, while sophomore Cameron Bosley placed 129th in 18:43.2.

The Ashland boys finished 16th among 20 teams with 400 points.

On the girls side, freshman Arya Fisher paced the Arrows with a 43rd-place finish in 20:16.9. Sophomore Melody Smith followed in 82nd place in 21:42.1, while freshman Jillian Stickney placed 84th in 21:47.4. Junior Hadley Bechtol finished 98th in 22:28.3.

Freshman Lilyanna Metzger placed 107th in 22:57.8, followed closely by sophomore Brynlynn Burgett in 108th place in 22:59.9. Senior Madison Reynolds rounded out the Ashland finishers, placing 112th in 23:08.3.

The Ashland girls finished 15th among 19 teams with 411 points.

If you have a press release please contact David Truax at djtruax@ohioprogramsolutions.com

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Ashland County Favors Republicans in Election

By Jim Brewer

Ashland County voters favored Republican candidates in every contested race on the November 3 ballot, continuing the county's traditional support for Republican candidates.

In the contested county commissioner's race, Republican Brandon Carpenter defeated Democrat Sandy Bally, 13,999 to 5,648. In the 67th House District race, which also included part of Medina County, Republican Melanie Miller defeated Heather L. Sample, 14,741 to 5,127.

Although Democrat Brian Poindexter defeated incumbent Republican Max Miller in the 7th Congressional District race, Miller carried Ashland County by a wide margin, receiving 12,690 votes to Poindexter's 6,318. Miller also led in Medina and Wayne counties, but Poindexter prevailed in Cuyahoga County, 123,741 to 76,425.

Ashland County voters also favored the unsuccessful Republican candidates in the two major statewide races. Republican Vivek Ramaswamy received 12,626 votes in the governor's race, compared with 6,259 for Democrat Amy Acton. In the U.S. Senate race, Republican Jon Husted received 12,685 votes in the county, defeating Democrat Sherrod Brown, who received 5,850. Brown won the statewide race.

Unopposed county candidates included Juvenile-Probate Judge Karen DeSanto Kellogg and Auditor Cindy Funk.

County voters also overwhelmingly approved State Issue 3, a constitutional amendment requiring photo identification to vote, by a vote of 15,496 to 4,322.



Voters cast their ballots at the Loudonville American Legion on November 3, when Ashland County residents decided local, state and congressional races and several ballot issues. Photo by Amanda Chambers

Two major local school issues were on the November 3 ballot. After multiple previous attempts, a Loudonville-Perrysville Schools proposal to build new and improve existing school facilities was again rejected by voters, with 1,864 against and 1,428 in favor. The combined proposal included a 0.25% income tax for 30 years and $16.4 million in bonds for school construction and improvements. The vote totals include all four counties in the district: Ashland, Holmes, Knox and Richland.

Ashland City Schools voters approved a 9.9-mill continuing operating levy, 5,516 to 3,698.

The only countywide tax issue to fail was a 3.1-mill renewal and additional levy sought by the Ashland County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the operation of Dale-Roy programs and facilities. The measure failed, with 9,987 votes against and 9,690 in favor.

The following money issues were approved:

- Loudonville Public Library, 0.8-mill, five-year renewal.
- Clear Creek Fire District, 4-mill, five-year levy for fire protection and EMS (Replaces the existing 2.7-mill and 2-mill levies totaling 4.7 mills.)
- Firelands Ambulance Service District, 1-mill, five-year renewal.
- Green-Perrysville Joint Fire District, 2-mill, five-year renewal for fire protection and EMS.
- Green-Perrysville Joint Fire District, 1-mill, five-year renewal for fire protection and EMS.
- Ashland County Human Services, 2-mill, five-year renewal.
- Green Township, 0.2-mill, five-year cemetery levy.
- Lake Township, 1.5-mill, five-year renewal general construction levy.
- Troy Township, 0.5-mill, five-year renewal cemetery levy.

Voters in the Loudonville 2 precinct also approved a Sunday sales liquor option for Trails End Pizza Company by a vote of 493 to 160.

Results are based on final unofficial returns from the county boards of elections.

Police Calls

ASHLAND

Oct. 28, 4:20 p.m. Police responded to a report of a domestic dispute in the 200 block of Vine St. A 28-year-old man was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Oct. 29, 1:44 a.m. Police responded to a report of a domestic dispute in the 1500 block of Orange Rd. A 30-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Oct. 30, 2:37 a.m. Police conducted a field contact near E. Main and Arthur streets. A 37-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct – intoxicated.

Oct. 31, 1:34 a.m. Police responded to a report of intoxication in the first block of W. South St. A 19-year-old man was arrested for offenses involving underage persons.

Oct. 31, 2:02 a.m. Police responded to a report of a disturbance in the 600 block of Bruce Ave. An 18-year-old was arrested for underage consumption of liquor.

Oct. 31, 10:45 p.m. Police responded to an EMS assistance call in the 400 block of S. Countryside Dr. A 21-year-old woman was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Nov. 1, 10:06 a.m. Police responded to a report of a domestic dispute in the 400 block of W. Main St. A 21-year-old man was arrested for domestic violence.

Nov. 3, 3:45 p.m. Police responded to a report of a threat in the 600 block of Evergreen St. An 18-year-old man was arrested for aggravated menacing.

Nov. 3, 4:20 p.m. Police served a warrant in the 1500 block of Cottage St. A 38-year-old woman was arrested for theft.

Nov. 3, 5:51 p.m. Police served a warrant in the 600 block of Evergreen St. A 24-year-old man was arrested for contempt of court.

LOUDONVILLE

Oct. 25, 11:04 a.m. Police responded to the 700 block of Pearl Dr. to collect a damaged firearm for disposal.

Oct. 25, 2:27 p.m. Police responded to the 200 block of W. Main St. after a caller reported finding a dog with a collar but no identification tags. The Ashland County Sheriff's Office transported the dog to the Ashland County Dog Shelter.

Oct. 25, 10:30 p.m. Police took a report of a deer-related crash in the 700 block of W. Main St.

Oct. 26, 3:24 p.m. Police took a property damage report in the 400 block of S. Water St.

Oct. 27, 2:50 p.m. Police cited a 44-year-old Canton man in the 700 block of Wooster Rd. for speeding (51mph/35 mph zone).

Oct. 29, 2:05 p.m. Police received a fraud complaint from the Ashland County Department of Job and Family Services. Officers spoke with the individual involved and later met with them to gather additional information and evidence for the report.

Oct. 29, 7:15 p.m. Police cited a 32-year-old Shreve man in the 500 block of Wooster Rd. for failing to wear a seat belt. He also received warnings for a defective license plate light, failure to signal and a stop sign violation.

Oct. 30, 8 a.m. Police cited a 28-year-old Loudonville woman in the 700 block of Mill Rd. for expired registration.

Oct. 30, 9:07 a.m. Police responded to the 200 block of E. Main St. regarding debris in the roadway and provided traffic control until it was removed.

Oct. 30, 10:37 a.m. Police took a vandalism report in the 200 block of Wally Rd.

Oct. 31, 9:52 p.m. Police investigated a missing person report in the 200 block of N. Water St. The individual was later located by Bucyrus police and found to be safe.

Oct. 31, 10:17 p.m. Police took a report of suspicious activity in the 300 block of N. Market St.

Between Oct. 25-31, police also handled 48 additional routine calls, including business checks, EMS assists and reports of suspicious activity that required no further action.

Redbirds Blank Huskies

Staff Report

The Loudonville High School girls soccer team defeated Northwestern, 2-0, on October 20 to capture a Division V sectional championship.

Junior Brynn Bitner scored both goals for the Redbirds. Senior Rebekah Carroll and freshman Madison Hess each recorded an assist.

Loudonville outshot Northwestern, 30-4. Junior Amber Manchester recorded two saves in goal for the Redbirds.

The Redbirds advanced to the district semifinals on October 27, where they fell to Triway, 2-0.

Loudonville finished the season with an 11-7-1 record.

Two Redbirds Run at Regionals

Staff Report

Two Loudonville High School girls cross country runners competed October 31 at the Division IV Northeast Regional meet in Boardman.

Sophomore Gracie Jefferies led the Redbirds with a 95th-place finish in 23:32.0. Sophomore Kristen Troyer finished 138th in 24:55.8.

The regional meet concluded the season for the Redbirds' cross country team.

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Yields 12

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pkg. Hawaiian sweet rolls (12 rolls)
- 9 oz. Oven Roasted Turkey Breast
- 1 Roma tomato, cut 12 thin slices
- 6 slices Bacon, cooked and cut in half
- 1 tub (7.5 oz.) Chive & Onion Cream Cheese Spread
- 1/2 cup Butter, melted
- 1 tsp minced Garlic
- 1 tsp Parsley flakes

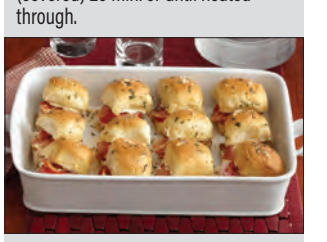
DIRECTIONS

Cut rolls horizontally in half. Place bottom halves of rolls, cut sides up, in 13x9-inch pan sprayed with cooking spray; top with turkey, tomatoes and bacon.

Spread cream cheese spread onto cut sides of tops of rolls; place, cut sides down, over sandwiches in pan.

Mix remaining ingredients until blended; drizzle over sandwiches. Cover. Let stand 20 min.

Heat oven to 350°F. Bake sandwiches (covered) 20 min. or until heated through.



STRAWBERRY PRETZEL DESSERT SQUARES

Yields 20 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1-1/2 pkg. (8 oz. each) Cream Cheese (12 oz.), softened
- 1 cup Whipped Topping, thawed
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) Strawberry Flavor Gelatin
- 2 cups finely crushed pretzels
- 1/2 cup sugar, divided
- 2/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2 Tbsp. Milk
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 4 cups fresh strawberries, sliced

DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°F.

Combine pretzel crumbs, 1/4 cup sugar and butter; press onto bottom of 13x9-inch pan. Bake 10 min. Cool.

Beat cream cheese, remaining sugar and milk with mixer until blended. Stir in whipped topping; spread over crust. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Add boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl; stir 2 min. until completely dissolved. Stir in cold water.

Refrigerate 1-1/2 hours or until thickened. Stir in berries; spoon over cream cheese layer.

Refrigerate 3 hours or until firm.



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

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Loudonville Begins Planning for Downtown Improvements

By Jim Brewer

Loudonville Village Council began preliminary discussions November 2 on plans for a major downtown improvement project funded through a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant awarded to the village earlier this year.

Councilman Tom Young opposed Mayor Cathy Lance's proposal to create a Downtown Infrastructure and Streetscape Committee. The committee would make decisions about infrastructure and streetscape improvements related to the grant, with input and assistance from the village administrator and fiscal officer.

Lance's proposal said the committee would include the chairs of council's finance, streets and utilities committees. The mayor appoints all council committees and their chairs. Young said he preferred that the full council make the decisions, but Law Director Thom Gilman said committee decisions would remain subject to review and final approval by the full council. The proposal was tabled without a vote.

Village Administrator Garret DeWitt reported meeting with Transportation Alternative Program officials on November 2. Additional meetings are planned with the full council, downtown merchants and other interested parties, with representatives from the program and OHM Advisors expected to participate. Work is anticipated to begin next year.

Councilman Bill Huffman presented an artist's rendering of planned Main Street improvements, which include parallel parking spaces, new sidewalks and bike lanes.

The project will involve at least $2 million, including $400,000 in engineering fees that the village must pay up front before receiving grant funds, Huffman said.

In other business, Lance acknowledged the volunteers who organized the Mohican 5K and the Loudonville Chamber of Commerce's Halloween activities on October 31. Both events drew record participation, with 450 taking part in the 5K and more than 300 participating in the Halloween parade.

DeWitt reported that asphalt rejuvenation treatments had been applied to several village streets in late October. He also met with FirstEnergy officials about installing electrical connections downtown for special events, which village staff will install to reduce costs.

Huffman also discussed next steps for the Riverside Park Connector, a bike path improvement project funded by a $300,000 state capital budget grant announced in June. He said council needs to consider additional funding and suggested meeting with OHM Advisors to begin planning and arrange surveys. He hopes to see the project completed by the end of next summer.

Council heard a second reading of an ordinance to standardize zoning classifications for commercial properties along the Ohio 3 bypass. A third and final reading is scheduled for the November 16 meeting.



An artist's rendering shows proposed improvements to downtown Loudonville, including updated sidewalks, parallel parking spaces and bike lanes. The work is part of a downtown improvement project funded through a Transportation Alternative Program grant.
Submitted Photo

Village council will meet again Monday, November 16, at 6 p.m. in the council chambers at 156 N. Water St. The upstairs chambers are wheelchair accessible through the rear fire escape entrance. All council meetings are open to the public.

Record-Setting Season Ends for Arrows

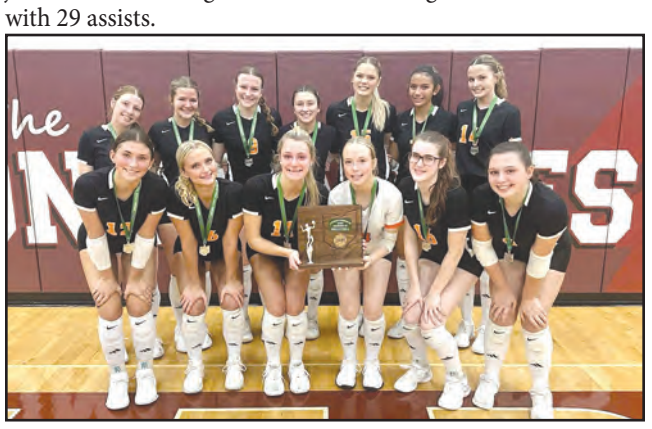
By Dan Chandler

The top-seeded Ashland Arrows volleyball team saw its season come to an end in the district final at Willard High School on October 28, falling to No. 3 Lima Shawnee, 25-21, 17-25, 23-25, 23-25. Shawnee claimed its fourth consecutive district title.

Ashland finished the season 23-2, surpassing the 2017 team's 22-2 record for the most wins in program history.

Sophomore Makenna Oslie led the Arrows with 13 kills, followed by senior Sadie Walter with 11 and senior Rylan McFrederick with 10. Oslie also served four aces, bringing her season total to a program-record 85. The previous record of 83 was set by Karli Shepherd in 2018.

Defensively, senior Kenna Chandler led the Arrows with 23 digs against Shawnee. She finished with 67 digs across Ashland's three tournament matches. McFrederick added 15 digs, while junior Arienne Vaughn contributed 10 digs and led the offense with 29 assists.



The Ashland High School volleyball team displays its district runner-up award after falling to Lima Shawnee in the district final on October 28.
Facebook Photo

Ashland Falls in Semifinal

By Dan Chandler

The Ashland Arrows boys soccer team's season came to a close in the district semifinal on October 28, as the host and No. 3 seed Anthony Wayne Generals defeated the No. 5 seed Arrows, 3-0.

Ashland finished the season with an 11-4-1 record and ranked No. 18 in Division II in the final MaxPreps rankings.

Despite the loss, several Arrows earned individual postseason honors. Senior Gary George was named District Player of the Year, the district's top individual honor.

Junior Ethan Haag and sophomore Luke Lavengood were selected to the Second Team, while senior Eric Cao and freshman Parker Morton received Honorable Mention recognition.

Arrows Recognize Golf Standouts

By Dan Chandler

The Ashland High School girls golf team wrapped up its season on October 29 with its annual end-of-year banquet.

The Arrows turned in several strong performances throughout the season, highlighted by a first-place finish at the George Valentine Golf Tournament. They also finished second at the Marlington Invitational, the Ohio Cardinal Conference (OCC) tournament, the NCOGGL tournament and Sectionals. Ashland earned dual victories over Wooster and Norwalk, placed third at the Clear Fork Invitational and finished sixth at the Edison Invitational.

At the banquet, the team presented its annual Arrow Awards. Senior Natalie Kohler was named Most Valuable Player. The Coach's Award was shared by junior Chloe Crunkilton and senior Samantha Mauriocourt.

Freshman Adrienne Teevan received the George Valentine Sportsmanship Award, recognizing her character and respect for the game. Sophomore Sophie Hochstetler earned the Most Improved Player Award.



Ashland High School girls golf award winners pose with their awards during the team banquet on October 29. From left are Samantha Mauriocourt, Natalie Kohler, Aubrey Oslie, Adrienne Teevan, Chloe Crunkilton and Sophie Hochstetler.
Facebook Photo

Senior Aubrey Oslie received the Be a Good Teammate Core Value Award for the positive attitude and support she provided her teammates throughout the season.

Gardeners Learn About Mushrooms

By Jim Brewer

"Mushrooms," Mandee Glasgo told more than 20 members of the Loudonville Gardener's Guild during their meeting on October 26, "are the coolest thing in the entire world."

Glasgo and her father, Steve, operate Glasgo Farms, a Century Farm about six miles southwest of Loudonville. The farm raises flowers, but Mandee's latest fascination is mushrooms.

She shared how mushrooms grow, her experiences cultivating them and ways to preserve them.

Whether in the wild or in the laboratory she established in a farm garage, mushrooms begin as tiny spores. Under the right conditions, they develop into a network of threadlike growth called mycelium, which eventually produces mushrooms.

"In nature, mushroom spores can take a long time to find the right conditions to grow, while in a laboratory, we focus on giving them exactly what they need at each stage to speed the process along," she explained.

Glasgo focuses on her four favorite varieties: oyster, chestnut, shiitake and lion's mane.

Growing mushrooms requires careful attention to cleanliness and growing materials. Glasgo starts spores on nutrient-rich agar plates or sterilized grain, then transfers the resulting growth to a medium typically made from soy and oak pellets.

"I admit I am learning about growing mushrooms every day, but following the above practices has provided some success," she said. "The more I study them, the more I am fascinated by mushrooms and all the different ways people are using mushrooms to solve problems."

Glasgo primarily grows saprophytic mushrooms, which break down dead or decaying material. After harvesting, she adds the spent growing medium to her garden and flower beds to help enrich the soil. She also supplies area grocery stores, including Stake's IGA in Loudonville, with fresh mushrooms.

For gardeners interested in growing their own, Glasgo recommended wine-cap mushrooms, which thrive in garden mulch.

"You can get a mushroom spawn and cover it with wood chips or mulch after the last frost or about a month before the first frost. You will get some tasty mushrooms in addition to helping naturally fertilize your plants," she said.

Morels, the prized mushrooms that local hunters seek in spring, are much harder to cultivate in a laboratory. Glasgo follows research into growing them and hopes to experiment on the family property.

"I recently read that two scientists in Sweden are having some success with lab-grown morels, but they haven't shared that secret yet," she said.

A 2009 Loudonville High School graduate, Glasgo earned a liberal arts degree from St. John's College. She and her father have worked together for the past 21 months on the family farm, which has been in the family since 1899.

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Photo banners honoring Mohican Area veterans hang in Loudonville's Central Park as part of the annual Veterans Day tribute. The display features nearly 200 banners and is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.
Photo by Amanda Chambers

Perrysville Council Approves New Tee-Ball Field

By Amanda Chambers

The Perrysville Village Council approved adding a new tee-ball field to the existing ballfield complex at its November 2 meeting, with two members voting against the proposal. Council members Carol Secoy and Matt Schwartz preferred developing the field on village-owned property near the sewer treatment plant.

A representative of the Loudonville-Perrysville Youth Association presented the proposed field plan. Following discussion of logistical considerations and neighboring property concerns, council approved the plan with modifications to the field's location within the existing complex. The field is expected to be ready for next summer's tee-ball season.

Council held first readings of a resolution establishing a compost facility on village property for residents' use and an ordinance expanding the junk vehicle regulations to include towed trailers and vehicles without current registration or license plates.

Zoning Inspector Rodney Fry reported that the owner of three properties in the 120 block of North Bridge Street is making improvements, so the village will hold off on further action. The Ashland County Land Bank will conduct an asbestos inspection this week at 137 North Bridge Street, which has been approved for demolition by a county judge, and partner with the village on the demolition.

Council member Ruth Zakutni was appointed liaison to the fire department and cemetery boards. The village continues to seek residents interested in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Shade Tree Committee and Planning Commission. After receiving no response from educational institutions contacted about certified arborist assistance, Mayor Steve Goines said he plans to seek tree maintenance quotes from local services.

Council approved several employee benefit changes, including a new health insurance plan expected to reduce village costs and a reduction in life insurance coverage from $50,000 to $30,000, saving the village just over $800 annually.

Village employees will receive a 4% cost-of-living raise beginning with the first pay period in January 2027, following a recommendation from the finance committee. Employees did not receive a cost-of-living increase last year. Council also approved the Village Administrator's job description and pay rate, retroactive to the October meeting when he was hired.

Goines announced that the Perrysville Activities Committee will host the annual Christmas tree lighting Sunday, December 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the fire station.

The next regular council meeting is Monday, December 7, at 6 p.m. in the community building. Meetings are open to the public.

A Stroll Through Ashland County Gardens:
Roses, Caring for the Queen of Flowers

By Eric Larson

Roses can be frustrating when they fail to thrive, but before pulling them out and starting over, consider whether they can be saved. Understanding what your roses need, particularly when it comes to growing conditions, fertilizing and pruning, may be all it takes to restore their health and beauty.

Roses have high standards. They need full sun, generally at least six hours daily during the growing season, along with rich, organic, moist but well-drained soil. Before replacing struggling plants, consider whether their growing conditions are contributing to the problem.

I've talked for years about the importance of testing your soil. Soil test kits are available online and at garden shops and retailers. A soil test identifies nutrient levels and soil pH, helping you determine what your roses need. Without one, you may apply too much fertilizer or the wrong nutrients, leaving your roses unable to absorb what they need.

Roses need nutrients to produce healthy growth and beautiful blooms, but the right amount and timing depend on the variety, soil conditions and age of the plant. Hybrid teas, floribundas, shrub roses, Knock Out roses and species roses can have different needs. Climbing and rambling roses may require additional nutrients because of their vigorous growth.



Shrub roses benefit from annual pruning to maintain their shape, improve air circulation and encourage healthy blooms.

Photo by Eric Larson

Fertilizing generally begins in spring and may continue during the growing season, depending on the type of rose and the fertilizer used. Follow the product label for application rates and timing. Liquid fertilizers are another option, and some products can be applied directly to foliage when labeled for that use. Organic fertilizers can also support healthy growth when used appropriately. Avoid late-season fertilization that encourages tender new growth vulnerable to frost.

Roses are often called the queen of flowers, and even a queen needs a little grooming. Pruning helps roses maintain an attractive shape, encourages flowering and improves air circulation. Remove damaged or broken shoots and those growing across the center of the bush. Prune healthy shoots as appropriate for the type of rose, making cuts just above outward-facing buds. Late winter or early spring is a common time to prune many roses.

Mature rose shrubs benefit from pruning that opens the center of the plant, allowing air to circulate among the branches. Dense foliage and poor air circulation can contribute to disease. Annual pruning, when appropriate for the variety, helps maintain a healthy plant and encourages good flowering.

As autumn arrives, clear away fallen leaves and other plant debris around your roses to help reduce disease problems. A layer of mulch can help protect the soil and roots through winter. Avoid piling mulch directly against the stems.

With proper care and attention, these garden queens can reward you with beautiful blooms for years to come.

Author's email: ericlarson546@yahoo.com

A Stroll Through Ashland County Gardens:
Growing Pecans in Northern Ohio

By Eric Larson

A reader recently asked me about growing pecan trees in our area, and it got me thinking about how far north pecans can thrive. Here in northern Ohio, we are close to the edge of their growing range, though milder winters in recent years seem to be helping.

Northern pecan varieties, especially those selected from hardy Midwestern trees, have done fairly well in our climate. If you have seen a healthy pecan tree growing locally, there is a good chance you can grow one too.

Pecan trees, *Carya illinoinensis*, can be started from seed or cuttings. I prefer cuttings because the new tree will be true to the parent plant, while seed-grown trees can vary due to cross-pollination.

Start cuttings in late spring or early summer. Fill a 5-inch peat pot with damp perlite or vermiculite. Choose a healthy side branch and cut a 6-inch tip with a flexible stem about a quarter-inch thick. Avoid branches with blossoms.

Cut just below a mature leaf at a slight angle, then remove the leaves from the lower half of the cutting. I like to clean the blade with rubbing alcohol first to help prevent disease.

Dip the cut end in rooting hormone if you have it, then place the cutting halfway into the potting material. Set the pot outdoors in light shade and out of strong wind and afternoon sun. Mist the leaves daily and keep the growing medium damp but not soaked.

After six to eight weeks, gently tug on the cutting. If it resists, roots have formed. Move it into a 1-gallon pot filled with garden soil and keep it in a sheltered spot through winter. Water only during extended dry periods.

The following spring, the young tree should be ready for planting. Given enough time and space, pecan trees can become productive shade trees that also provide food for squirrels, blue jays and woodpeckers.

I hope you find time for a stroll through your garden this week.

Author email: ericlarson546@yahoo.com



Young pecans develop in clusters along the branches of a pecan tree.

Photo by SnickeringBear, CC-BY-SA 4.0

Shafer Retrospective Opens Nov. 12

Submitted

The Coburn Art Gallery at Ashland University will feature "Reflections and Connections," a retrospective exhibition of work by Ashland artist Susan Shafer, November 12 through December 17.

An opening reception will be held Thursday, November 12, from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The exhibition features more than 60 years of Shafer's work in various mediums, including graphite, charcoal, pastel, collage and paint. Her artwork often incorporates figures, elements of nature and visual symbols.

Shafer's work has been exhibited throughout the country, including at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown. She also spent many years teaching art in Ohio public schools, including Ontario, Hillsdale and South Euclid-Lyndhurst.



Ashland artist Susan Shafer stands with one of her paintings ahead of her retrospective exhibition, "Reflections and Connections," opening November 12 at Ashland University's Coburn Art Gallery.

Submitted Photo

Shafer earned degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University, Ashland University and Miami University.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and noon to 4 p.m. weekends. Admission is free, and the exhibition is open to the public.

Information: 419-289-5652

LHS Students Decorate Snowplow

Submitted

Loudonville High School art students have transformed a snowplow blade into a tribute to America's 250th anniversary and Mohican State Park through the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Paint-the-Plow program.

Art 3 and Art 4 students, led by art teacher David Vaughn, spent four weeks designing and painting the blade. The artwork features patriotic imagery and a covered bridge honoring the natural beauty and local significance of Mohican State Park.

The ODOT program invites K-12 students and vocational schools to create original snowplow artwork while promoting community involvement and winter road safety.



Loudonville High School art students gather beside the snowplow blade they painted as part of the Ohio Department of Transportation's Paint-the-Plow program, which invites students to create original artwork for snowplows.

Submitted Photo

"I'm so proud of these students. They put a lot of time into this plow, and it turned out beautifully," said Superintendent Jennifer Allerding. "It's a great way for our community to see their talent."

Before entering winter service, the snowplow will be displayed at area community events.

If you have a press release please contact David Truax at djtruax@ohioprogramsolutions.com

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News Reporter: Attend Bellville and/or Butler City Council and/or Clear Fork School Board meetings. Using notes and official minutes write news articles for the Mohican Area Shopper. 3-6 hours per week. Requires writing skills and an interest in journalism. Only basic Word or Pages, email, and internet navigation skills required. Computer, Wi-Fi, cell phone, and vehicle required. Call 419-670-3408.

HELP WANTED
Truck drivers to haul milk from farm to dairy. Need Class A or B CDL with tanker endorsement. Full-time or part-time or just a day or two per week. Local runs, home daily, no log book. Join a family-owned business for over 100 years.
Paullin Milk Cartage, (419) 685-0984.

HELP WANTED
STNA or Home Health Aide, Full-time, Private Home with Agency. $20/Hour. (419) 886-3335.

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Access the latest weekly issue of the Shopper anytime at **ohioprogramsolutions.com** as early as **Friday** morning. No charge, no hassle, no strings, no junk. Over 9,000 Shoppers are printed and delivered to mailboxes and local stores throughout Ashland, Loudonville and the Mohican Area.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Call Betti Weimer - 419-651-6158

2026 LOCAL DAY OF SHARING
Tues. Dec. 8, 11-4 pm, Loudonville Church of the Nazarene. Food vouchers, new toys, items from The Store. To register between Nov. 1-30, no exceptions, scan QR Code or call 419-827-8277 for phone survey Mon-Fri 10-12 pm.
Open to families in L/P District.

EUCHRE TOURNEMENT
Benefits LHS Scholarships. Nov 13th at 7 p.m. at Loudonville Fair Building (across from Ohio Theatre). Prizes: 1st Place $75; 2nd Place; $50; 3rd Place $25, Refreshments, 50/50 Raffle. $20 Entry. Arrive by 6:45, please. Sponsored by Rotary. For Questions, contact Brian Hartzell at 567-215-3236.

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Welcome to Grace Fellowship Church, 2150 T.R. 585, Loudonville. Join us Sundays @ 9:30 am as we study God's Word together!

THE OHIO THEATRE
Movie **"Drummer Boy"** Nov 13 at 7:00, 14 at 1:00*, 15 at 7:00* (*Watch Special Sat & Sun Showtimes)

THE OHIO THEATRE
LHS Drama Club Presents **"Play On!"** Nov 14 at 7:00 & 15 at 2:00. www.theohiotheatre.com

Arrows' Football Season Ends in Playoff Heartbreaker

By Dan Chandler

The No. 12-seeded Ashland Arrows put up a fight in the first round of the Division II, Region 7 playoffs, but the No. 5-seeded Canal Winchester Indians held on for a 43-37 win, ending Ashland's season.

Junior quarterback Liam Hubacher's final pass, intended for senior Nevin LaRue on fourth down, fell incomplete at the 12-yard line, ending the Arrows' comeback hopes.

Hubacher threw for 284 yards and four touchdowns while adding 89 yards rushing, including an 18-yard touchdown run. He accounted for 11 touchdowns in his final two games of the season.

Senior receiver Killian O'Brien was Hubacher's primary target, catching 11 passes for a career-high 188 yards and three touchdowns. O'Brien also contributed defensively with an interception. LaRue caught the other touchdown pass, a 20-yarder.

Senior Landen Cooke led the Arrows defensively with 10 tackles.

Ashland finishes the season with a 6-5 record.



Ashland High School seniors Grayson Baith and Greyson Blough pose after the Arrows' first-round playoff game against Canal Winchester on October 30. Ashland fell 43-37. Facebook Photo

Redbirds Boys Team Closes Soccer Season

Staff Report

The Loudonville High School boys soccer team ended its season October 21 with a 2-1 loss to Smithville in a Division V sectional final.

"The boys soccer team faced some tough competition this fall season," said coach Seth Youngen. "While being ranked as the 39th-seeded team in the bracket, they played a great game against the Smithies."

Senior Brayson Youngen led the Redbirds with nine goals, 42 shots on goal and 39 steals for the season. Junior Ethan Hess recorded a team-high two assists.

Senior Kaden Luyster recorded 130 saves in goal for the Redbirds throughout the season.

Seniors Youngen, Luyster and Wes Fogle each completed their high school soccer careers.

The Redbirds finished the season with a 0-16-1 record.



The Loudonville High School boys soccer team completed its 2026 season with a 0-16-1 record. Submitted Photo

Loudonville Holiday Events Set for Dec. 5

Submitted

The Loudonville Mohican Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the annual Christmas Parade, Holiday Shop Hop and holiday decorating contests on Saturday, December 5, as part of this year's "Merry & Bright" holiday celebration.

The Christmas Parade will begin at 5 p.m. and will be followed by a tree lighting, the opening weekend of Mohican Christkindlmarkt and other holiday activities.

The annual Business Holiday Window Decorating Contest is open to businesses throughout the area, including those outside downtown. A Residential Holiday Light Display Contest also will be held, with first-, second- and third-place prizes awarded in both contests.

Judging for the residential displays will take place Friday evening, December 4. Winners will be announced during the Christmas Parade on December 5.

Information: 419-994-4789



Santa Claus waves to spectators while riding on a float during Loudonville's 2025 Christmas Parade. This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 5, at 5 p.m. Photo by Amanda Chambers

Ashland SWCD Launches Grazing Program

Submitted

Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has received $250,000 through the Ohio Department of Agriculture's H2Ohio Conservation Pilot Program to improve water quality in Ashland County.

One of nine Ohio districts selected for the program, Ashland SWCD will use the funding to launch its H2Ohio Grazing Program, which targets nutrient runoff from pasture and hayland.

Over the program's five-year period, livestock producers can receive free soil testing, $10 per acre in cost-share assistance to develop grazing management plans and, after completing a plan, up to $15,000 in 100% cost-share funding for livestock stream exclusion fencing.

Information: 419-281-7645

Wayside Floral is still OPEN!
$5 Off House Plants | Dried Flowers by the Bunch! | Baked Goods! Fresh & Ready.
Accepting baked goods orders for Thanksgiving & Christmas
Closing for the season Nov. 21
Open Mon. thru Sat. - Closed Sunday | 12984 SR 39 Big Prairie, OH 44611

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