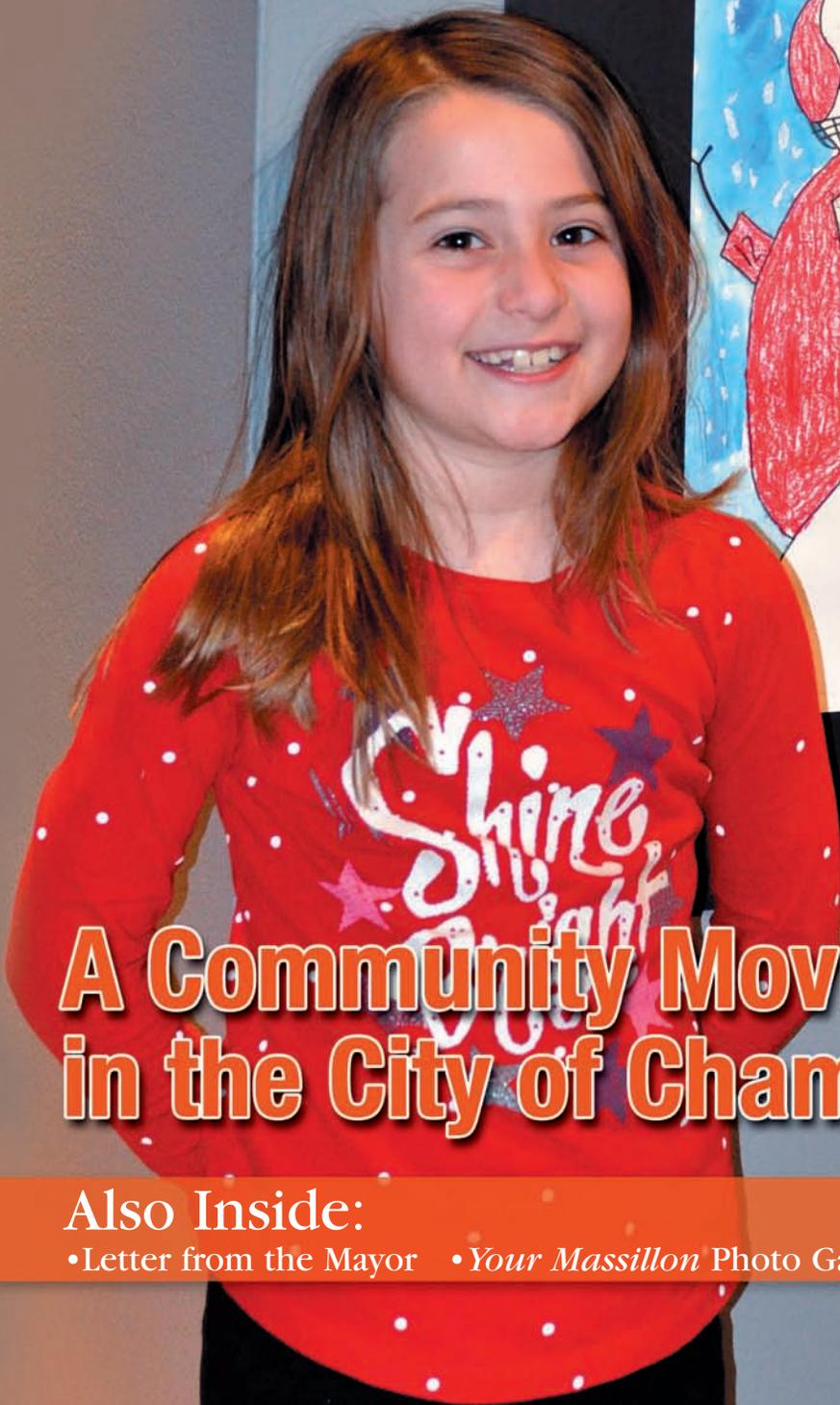


Winter/Spring 2016

# CITY of CHAMPIONS

Massillon, Ohio

Today!



Celebration in Art - Massillon Schools  
Artist: Emily Schmidt  
Age: 8  
Grade: 3rd  
Teacher: Mrs. [Name]  
Date: [Date]

## A Community Moving Forward in the City of Champions

### Also Inside:

- Letter from the Mayor
- Your Massillon Photo Gallery

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## On the Cover:

*Photo courtesy of the Massillon Museum.*  
Emily Schmidt of St. Joan of Arc School poses with her artwork at the 2015 Celebration in Art annual student exhibit at the Massillon Museum.

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## LETTER FROM THE **MAYOR**



Welcome to winter/spring issue of *City of Champions Today*.

While the holiday season was unseasonably warm, it appears the cold of winter is finally upon us as we begin another year in the City of Champions.

2016 will be busy in Massillon as we have much to do to continue moving our community forward, and we are fortunate to start the year with good news.

As Massillon continues to put its financial house back in order, I am pleased to announce we start the year with a \$1.95 million dollar carryover in the city's general fund. When I started as mayor, that carryover was a mere \$416. A solid financial framework is critical to growing our community, improving our infrastructure, and attracting new jobs to Massillon. While there is still much work ahead of us, we are certainly heading in the right direction.

As a result of our improving finances, Massillon was able to hire four new police officers to help bolster the ranks of our police department. They have hit the ground running and have already made a positive impact in our community.

We continue to focus on city services as we were able to purchase two new snow plow trucks to help deal with the inevitable snowfall that comes with a northeast Ohio winter.

I am pleased to report that roughly two dozen businesses opened or expanded their operations in Massillon last year. We will continue to work to make Massillon a business-friendly community and grow the jobs necessary to improve opportunities for our residents.

My administration continues to work on the issues our community is concerned about. We focus on bringing jobs and economic development to our city, putting our finances back in order, and keeping our community safe. Massillon is a great place to live because of the people who live here. It is the people of Massillon who truly make us the City of Champions.

I wish everyone the very best for an outstanding 2016!

Sincerely,

MAYOR, CITY OF MASSILLON  
"CITY OF CHAMPIONS"



Foundations staff from left to right: Valerie G., Jessica A., Katherine S., and Kelley B.

## Foundations—A Place for Education and Recovery

KATHERINE SPANGLER,  
SITE COORDINATOR

The mission statement of Foundations may seem simple “To support recovery through peer support, education, and advocacy and networking.” But to those in recovery it means so much more. “Recovery” is the key word. This word has the personal significance for every individual of feeling better about oneself, realizing potential, and working toward a better tomorrow.

Working through recovery is a goal at Foundations. We provide peers with information about their illness through structured classes taught by trained peers and through social events. We strive to empower everyone who walks through the Foundations door through education, support groups, and one-on-one peer support.

Peers have a special lens to look at their own recovery. They have a unique, compassionate insight to share. Other peers in recovery can learn from the ones who are well on the path of their own recovery journey. Our goal

is to help people achieve their own highest level of recovery and to maintain it.

We hope those in need utilize these programs at our three locations that include Massillon, Canton, and Alliance. Programs help people in recovery discover coping skills and healthier ways to deal with things in their lives by attending groups that fit their needs. To learn more about Foundations, please stop by Make-A-Way, which is located at 227 Third Street SE in Massillon on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. or visit our web page, [www.FoundationsCanton.org](http://www.FoundationsCanton.org). The class schedule is on our web page as well as information about our two other locations.

It's time to make recovery a priority! Join us on your journey to wellness and recovery. ❖



# Building Department News



**FRANK SILLA,**  
CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL

The Building Department would like to thank Tri-County Stark-Tuscarawas-Wayne Joint Solid Waste Management District. The Building Department received a grant from Tri-County, which was used in our efforts to Go Green. Through Tri-County's generosity with this grant, the Building Department was able to purchase four i-Pad tablets and the building department software that is needed to use these devices in the field. We are very excited to be able to use this technology! ❖

# Community Clean-Up Month



**KIM O'FARRELL,**  
DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The City of Massillon Parks and Recreation Department will hold a volunteer community parks clean-up on Saturdays during the month of April. The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Volunteers will meet at the Massillon Recreation Center and divide into groups for different parks. Help make your parks a better place for all of Massillon's residents and guests. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lisa Benton at 330-832-1621 to schedule a time to come to the Rec Center to fill out your volunteer waiver. ❖

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# Housing Department of the City of Massillon



BEVERLY A. LEWIS,  
HOUSING DIRECTOR

The Housing Department for the City of Massillon would like to say thanks to the citizens we have had the opportunity to serve over the past year and to those who have been patiently waiting to receive assistance.

It is indeed a pleasure to serve you and experience the joy you have in our being able to provide you with (a) rehabilitation for your home (b) emergency assistance, or (c) first-time homebuyer assistance. As in anything, it is a process; but your cooperation and patience are much appreciated as we work together to provide the assistance needed.

**Emergency Assistance Program—No Lien Program—**(one item, one time) up to \$5,000.00 to replace a non-functional furnace or hot water tank, electric that is a safety threat, water or a sewer line that is broken or backing up into one’s home. Assistance can be provided if a new roof is needed—no-lien, with the maximum of \$7,000.00 to fully replace a roof. An exception will be if the inspector indicates that additional work needs to be done due to safety reasons.

**The Housing Rehabilitation Program—**A full 10-year lien will be placed—up to \$27,000.00 (revised 2015) to upgrade the home and bring it up to minimum rehab standards. The lien will be released after the 10th year.

**Homebuyer’s Assistance Program—**A full five-year lien program. The down-payment/closing cost that can be provided for persons below 50% of median income can be up to 7% of the purchase price of the home they are approved to purchase. Person who are 51–80% of the median income can receive up to 6% of the purchase price. Homebuyers must provide \$500.00 or 1% of purchase price as their contribution. There is absolutely no cash back to the purchaser at the closing. There is an inspection provided for the prospective home and specifications are listed at that time to determine if there are minimum code items that need to be addressed once the home is in the homebuyer’s name. This program provides a maximum of \$5,000.00 to bring the home up to the Residential Rehab Standards. The lien will be released after the fifth year.

If you have any question in regards to any of our programs, please call at 330-830-1717.

Thanks again for all the kind comments we have received from those of you we have been able to assist. It is our hope that this will be a good and prosperous and year for the citizens of Massillon and that the Housing Department can continue to provide you the best possible service. ❖

# Massillon’s New Civil Service Director

JOE ALESSANDRO,  
CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR



Joe Alessandro is a lifelong resident of Stark County and is a graduate of Oakwood High School and Kent State University. His career includes time as a business owner, as a district manager within the food service industry, and employment with the State of Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles Investigative Fraud Division. He was also an auxiliary police officer for Perry Township Police Department and worked part-time in the department’s detective bureau.

Alessandro brings a wide variety of knowledge to the City of Massillon Public Administration Consultant position. He has experience dealing with union contracts and employee relations within private industry and governmental settings. His work as an investigator, operating frequently within multi-jurisdictional settings, gives him experience in bringing people together to accomplish a common mission.

Alessandro’s City of Massillon position as Public Administration Consultant includes the titles of Equal Employment Opportunity Director and Civil Service Commission Administrator. ❖



Civil Service Director, Joe Alessandro, being sworn in as Safety Service Director, Joel Smith holds the Bible, and Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry administers the oath of office.

# Massillon Police Department New Hires

SERGEANT BRIAN MUNTEAN

**RYAN WOOD**—Ryan graduated from Jackson High School and attended Akron University, pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. While attending college, he enrolled in Stark State's Police Academy and graduated in 2014. Immediately thereafter, he joined the Lawrence Township Police Department, where he spent a year and a half before joining the Massillon Police Department. Ryan's goal is to become a detective because of the complexity of investigations and the satisfaction that comes when closure is finally conveyed to victims of the crime. ❖



Massillon Police Officer Ryan Wood



Massillon Police Officer Jeremy Moody

**JEREMY MOODY**—Jeremy graduated from Carrolton High School and went on to Akron University, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice/political science in 2014. He advanced his education the following year by obtaining his OPOTA certification and graduating from the Stark State Law Enforcement Academy. Finally, prior to joining the Massillon Police Department, he was sworn in as a reserve at the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Jeremy hopes to further his knowledge in the career of law enforcement while working his dream job as a police officer. ❖

## Fire Official of the Year



**TOM BURGASSER,**  
FIRE CHIEF

On January 6, 2016, Captain Donald Smith of the Massillon Fire Department was awarded Fire Official of the Year by the Five-County Building Officials Association. He was nominated by Jeffrey Rettberg of the Massillon Building Department, who noted the outstanding cooperation between the fire department and the building department of the City of Massillon and applauded all the fire department does to enforce fire and building codes in the city. In attendance was Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry; Safety Service Director Joel Smith; Chief Tom Burgasser; Chief Building Official Frank Silla; Inspector Mike Stone; and Captain Smith's wife, Carla Smith. ❖



Safety Service Director, Joel Smith; Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry; Fire Chief Tom Burgasser; Fire Captain Donald Smith; Captain Smith's wife, Carla Smith; Inspector Mike Stone

# Focusing on Streets



**JOEL P. SMITH,**  
SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR

As the Safety Service Director, I review the operations of most of our city departments. I interact with our Department Directors and/or Chiefs, and together, we try our best to service the citizens of, and the visitors to Massillon. The condition of our streets and infrastructure is probably the source of the greatest number of complaints I receive within my job capacity. I have decided for this article to give our readers an update on where we are and where we hope to go.

The City of Massillon Streets Department is guided by Director Lee McBride. Lee is a lifelong resident of Massillon, and truly cares about his department's work performance and the service they provide to the city. The Streets Department is also blessed with a hard working administrative assistant in Annette Tabellion. She takes the calls from me, the mayor, and all the citizens of Massillon when problems are detected. She works with Director McBride to ensure each complaint is addressed.



*Paving done with the HUD Community Block Grant*

The Streets Department has nine additional hard working employees who also care about this city and the department's performance. I am told by long term

employees that "back in the day," there were as many as 21 workers within the streets department. Today, because of budget constraints, we only have 11.

The condition of our streets overall in Massillon is obviously much less desirable than we all would like. In fact, many streets within the city are downright miserable. After years and years of patching, many are one continuous patch. Many residents ask, "why aren't we paving streets more regularly?" The answer is all related to money.

In 2015, the Streets Department was able to do many

*continued on page 7*

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## Focusing continued

things to include servicing our roads during a very bad winter and patch (it seems) nearly every road in the city. Total expenditures in 2015 for road salt: \$224,157. Total spent on asphalt: \$227,000. These expenditures came from our General Fund, and other state and county funds received. The total spent was much more than was initially budgeted for in 2015. The Streets Department was able to make more extensive improvements beyond patching to several roads around the city to include; Castlewest Circle NW, Deerfield NE, Hemlock NW, Greenridge NE, Moss Glen Circle NE, Lake Street NE, and 23rd SW.

The engineer's office coordinated with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) in 2015 for the Lincoln Way East project between 3rd and 16th streets on the east side, paid completely with grant dollars. The engineer's office also coordinated the repaving of State Street NW between 3rd and the railroad tracks. As an example of the high cost of paving, State Street cost the city \$16,000 for the 965 foot length project. State Street was in such disrepair commercial trucks were cutting through a private business lot to avoid potholes. We were also able to pave 13th SW, 14th SW, 15th SW, 16th SW, Dwight SE, and Harsh SE using federal funds through HUD. Cost of the streets listed; \$260,000 for about 1.45 mile of street.

The last time the City of Massillon had a dedicated street paving program was 2010. We have not had a sus-

tained funding source and paving project since then due to budget constraints. We continue into 2016 without a dedicated funding source for paving city streets. Our general fund is maximized at this point for operational costs of running the city. Massive cuts were made in 2012 to pay the bills and get out from under debt. This process left capital improvement projects like paving streets and replacing vehicles underfunded.

For 2016, we have funding from a grant to do a complete paving project on west Main Street from Lincoln Way to the western city limits. The project includes replacement of water catch basins and handicap ramping. We will also have HUD funding after July 1 of 2016 for approximately \$130,000 in targeted neighborhood street improvements. Hopefully, with a continued mild winter and savings on salt purchasing, we will see money available to target some of our worst streets for paving projects. We all watch the weather and pray for the snow and ice to stay clear of our city.

What is the answer to our funding problem? It is either increased revenue, or decreased spending. We feel we have decreased spending as far as we are able and still efficiently operate the functions of the city. As we move forward, each citizen and employee of the city must decide for themselves, "what do we want Massillon to be?" ❖

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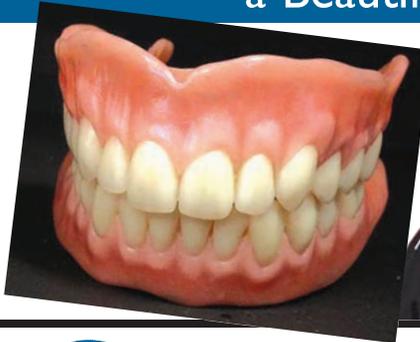
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# Thank You from the Family Living Center

RAY FETE,  
MARKETING

People always say giving is better than receiving. While we at the Family Living Center (FLC) are true believers in this statement, we could not survive without being on the receiving end of incredible generosity. The one thing we can and do give plenty of is thank you. One of the easiest ways to give back to someone is by saying thank you. It is so easy and so often said it sometimes seems to lose the strong sentiment behind it. Saying thank you is often lost in today's society, but when those two little words come from us at the Family Living Center we mean it with all our heart.

Every Christmas, the greater Massillon community opens its heart and besieges our homeless shelter with all sorts of needed items. Food, clothing, and gifts fill the lobby and remind us all that it is the giving time of year. Every year this level of generosity gets us through the rough spots. As you would suspect, the population of our shelter swells with the approach of winter. This year in particular has been a tough one. It was just weeks ago that the primary supplier of food for our residents

opted to dramatically reduce its contribution from here on. What used to be enough food to provide a daily meal for every shelter resident has been reduced by 86%. This allows for just one day of food for the residents.

It was a bit ironic that our traditional (and much appreciated) food donor relayed its intentions to us the week before Thanksgiving. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is held each year the week before Thanksgiving. This is a time for us all to start to think about what we are thankful for, a perfect time to share our compassion with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and a time to work toward a world where no one needs to experience hunger and homelessness. While we can shelter our residents, the need to feed them is paramount. Hunger hurts everyone, but it is especially devastating to children. Having enough nutritious, healthy food is critical to children's physical and emotional development and their ability to achieve academically. Children facing hunger may perform worse in school and struggle with social and behavioral problems that

impact their ability to learn.

A child's chance at a bright tomorrow starts with having enough good, healthy food today. Without access to nutritious foods, a child's future is at risk. When hunger threatens the future of a child, it threatens the future of our nation. Feeding America is dedicated to solving the child hunger crisis. The Feeding America network of food banks serves 12 million children in every community in the U.S. That's why we need your help today.

Luckily, there are a number of local Massillon area pastors who keep close tabs on the FLC. They are our virtual guardian angels and let no stone go unturned when called upon. They, along with the City of Massillon and the Health Department, have jumped in to fill the void so that every resident can be assured of a meal each and every day. We have no idea of how long this can be sustained and we have no expectations beyond tomorrow. But for what has occurred to date...THANK YOU. Two little words from the bottom of our hearts. ❖

## Street Department History



LEE MCBRIDE,  
OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

Good news from the City of Massillon Street Department!

Due to the mild weather conditions from late fall into the first week of winter, the City of Massillon has received significant benefits. In comparison to a year ago (October 1 through December 28, 2014), we had a total of eight inches of snow compared to a trace this year to date. Last year, weather conditions generated more than 75 hours of overtime compared to zero hours this year dur-

ing the same time period—a savings of \$2,100.00. During the same time period a year ago, we ordered \$55,000.00 (1,102 tons) in salt compared to \$13,000.00 (250 tons) this year, having used only a dump truck load thus far.

Certainly we can't control the weather, but benefits are benefits, for our roads, finances, and the wear and tear of equipment and our City workers. ❖

# Massillon—Growing

KATHY CATAZARO-PERRY,  
MAYOR

So much growth and building in Massillon during 2015 and continuing into 2016—new construction, new businesses and new stores—and the outlook is for that to continue. During 2015 the City saw new construction projects including building along Tommy Henrich Drive NW, near the Towne Plaza. It will include a new Chipotle, Jimmy John’s, and a Smoke the Burger Joint to be completed before spring. The extension of the Millennium Boulevard industrial park road will help lead to new land

being more readily available for industrial users. One such land acquirer is E-Tank, which has started the construction of a multi-billion headquarter center. Premier Industrial Supply on Nova Avenue, S.E., completed a major construction project—a large addition to expand operations. The DiPietros added new operations at the former Republic Steel site. The facility is host to a new petroleum pipeline business, which led to the construction of a new rail line.

As part of the City’s economic

development efforts, Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry worked hard to attract new businesses. The City provided small economic development grants to Columbus Equipment, Brahler’s Cleaning, and Tesla Nanocoatings—adding more than 50 jobs combined. Both Columbus Equipment and Brahler’s acquired empty buildings. Columbus Equipment will soon start construction on an addition to their Venture Circle, S.E., building to add big equipment service bays and approximately three more jobs. Tesla, which acquired and upgraded the former Independent building, brings a highly technical company and highly skilled jobs to Massillon. Another small grant went to The Salon House helping to keep them in Massillon and acquire and improve a new parking lot to an old home at 317 Lincoln Way East. Mercy Medical Center bought the former Moose lodge at 2935 Lincoln Way West with plans to open an outpatient health center for Western Stark County.



*ABOVE: Chipotle under construction...Jimmy John’s and Smoke the Burger Joint site area too  
BELOW: The need for the E-Tank expansion*





Republic Short Line's new rails and petroleum pipeline stacked for order at the former Republic Steel site

A grant from Aultman Hospital funded a study to initiate a Streetscape project. Started in 2015, this potential improvement project could build on the momentum of growth taking place in downtown. The Streetscape project has been progressing through a series of public meetings, seeking the input of more

than a dozen stakeholder groups representing the interests of City Council, downtown, merchants, businesses, and historical groups. MS Consultants is pursuing a traffic study now and will be rolling out a public design in the coming month.

The largest office building in downtown—Shearer's main office—

added more than 15 new jobs during 2015. This growth has helped bring new shoppers and lunchtime restaurant patrons. During the last two years, more than 10 new storefronts have been added, several filling street-level space that had been vacant for some time. Several new businesses have helped promote arts and entertainment—Gallery 121 and Sangria Stand present entertainment and art. And the monthly “Second Saturday” celebration was started. New visitors from outside of Massillon have been attracted.

The Massillon Museum, Lincoln Theatre, and Massillon Public Library always add to the momentum. ❖



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Safety Service Director Joel Smith, presenting a proclamation from the Mayor to Kyle Wenger, President of Integrity Crane Services, and a representative of the Ohio Secretary of State

## Integrity Crane Services



JOSH WHITACRE,  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Integrity Crane Services has operated at its current location since 2007. Located at 2100 Venture Circle SE, in Massillon, the company has been a successful provider of cranes and crane servicing for Northeastern Ohio since 2001. Founder Kyle Wenger based the business on the same principles and ethics that drove his six-year career in the Navy. After leaving the Navy, he started as a technician within the crane industry before founding his own business in 2001.

On Wednesday, November 25, 2015, a representative from the Ohio Secretary

of State's office accompanied by representatives from the City of Massillon visited the Integrity Crane Services headquarters. Integrity Crane services was presented with a commendation from the office of Ohio Secretary of State and a proclamation from the City of Massillon recognizing the growth and success of the company. Prior to the event, Integrity Crane Service was featured in the Ohio Business Profile Program, which recognizes growing and successful businesses within the state of Ohio. ❖



Integrity Crane Services employees



Rock with plaque of history of Kendal Park

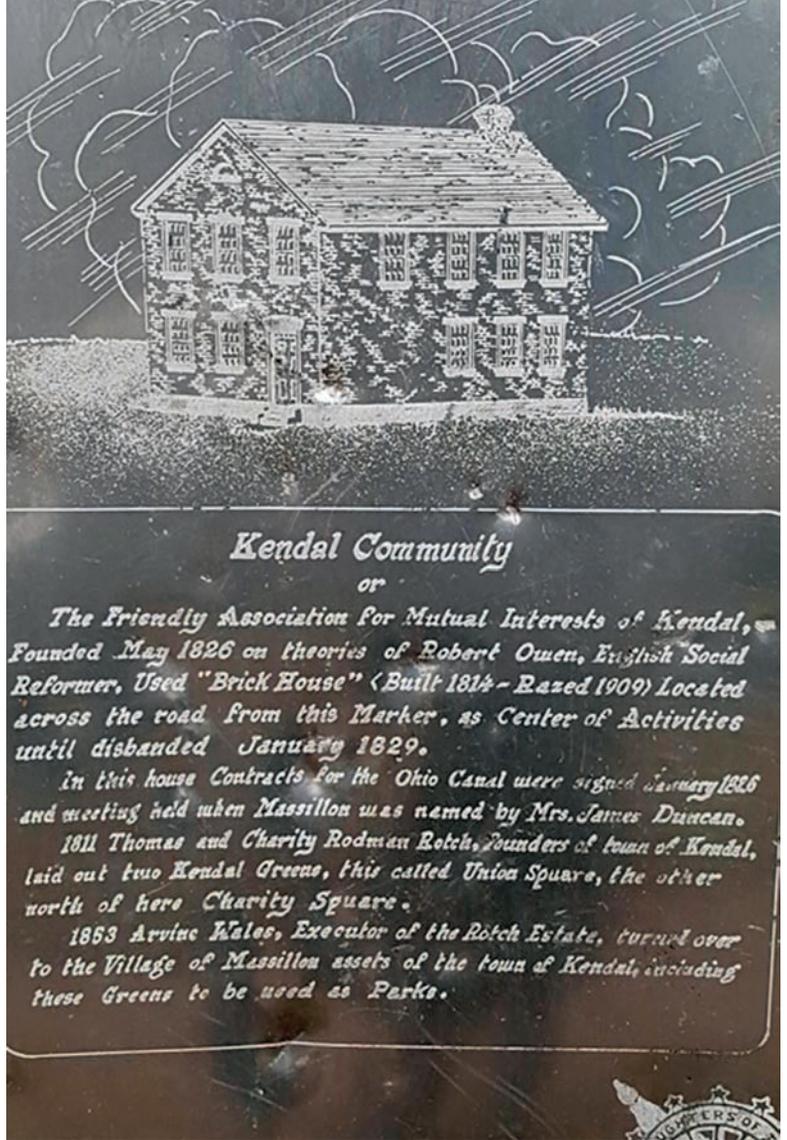
# Kendal Park

LISA BENTON,  
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT,  
SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING SUPERVISOR

I have lived here almost all of my life and do not remember learning a lot of history about how our city was founded. I know it was by Thomas and Charity Rotch. I also know they built what we now know as Spring Hill Historic Home and that they were part of the Underground Railroad, but I have recently learned more information about how they founded the earliest part of what is today Massillon, and I would like to share it with you.

Thomas and Charity Rotch moved to Ohio from Hartford, Connecticut, in 1811. They brought with them over 400 merino sheep. It was Thomas Rotch's intent to create a manufacturing town—using water power from Sippo Creek—where the wool from the sheep would be the primary source of income. When they arrived in Ohio, they settled in western Stark County near the Tuscarawas River. The Rotches were both from respected Quaker families in Massachusetts and therefore several others families from the New England area followed them here.

On April 12, 1812, Thomas Rotch submitted a plat to found the town of Kendal. It was named after a town in England with the same name. It was made up of 102 lots and two green areas. In April 1813, the Postmaster



History of Kendal Park

General granted a post office to the town of Kendal. In 1815, an additional 45 lots became a part of Kendal. From 1813 until 1823 the town grew to include a sawmill, pottery, a general store, a woolen factory, a brickyard, a gristmill, a tannery, a blacksmith shop, a Quaker meeting house, and a powder mill.

In addition to Thomas and Charity Rotch, other Quakers become residents of Kendal. They included Mayhew Folger and his family. Folger was a former ship captain. In addition, his sister, Anna, and her husband, Thomas Coffin, were planning to take up residence here. Coffin partnered with Folger and signed contracts with other residents to plant 50 acres of wheat. Unfortunately, Coffin died before moving to Kendal.

On April 20, 1812, the plat for Kendal, Ohio, was approved. In 1853, Kendal, Massillon, and West Massillon incorporated into a single town, Massillon. The area of the original Kendal settlement surrounded the two village greens that still serve the community as parks on Wales Road near State Street. If you walk through the Kendal Park (originally named Union Square), you will see a big rock with a plaque on it that tells part of this history. I have attached a photo of this rock and plaque for you to see. ❖

# When Needs Arise in Stark County, 2-1-1 is the Number to Call for Help and Hope

ALICIA MEYER,  
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS INTERN

As cold weather moves in and winter settles over Stark County, individuals' needs rise. From finding food and warm housing to accessing utility payment assistance, residents are facing challenges each day. United Way of Greater Stark County's 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services, serving Stark County residents since 1972, offers information and referral to residents in every season by simply dialing 2-1-1.

United Way's 2-1-1 service offers a confidential connection to proper assistance for the needs of Stark County residents 24/7 year-round. Every call made to 2-1-1 is answered by an Alliance of Information and Referral (AIRS) trained specialist. The specialist is able to connect clients with the best resources for their specific situation from the database of more than 800 assistance organizations.

Over 41,000 calls were answered by the United Way of Greater Stark County's 2-1-1 in 2015. Nearly 38,000 of those calls came from Stark County alone, and 67,000 referrals were made to connect clients to local agencies and services.

United Way's 2-1-1 service operates on the Community Campus at Goodwill, and it is strategically housed with 21 other local agencies. The standing relationships with United Way's partner organizations allows 2-1-1 referrals to be accurate.

"It is extremely beneficial to the community when agencies come together and collaborate. Each is doing what it can to solve a client's problem. We have ongoing relationships with other organizations that allow us to secure and maintain an accurate database," said Connie Allton, director, 2-1-1 Information and Referral Services.

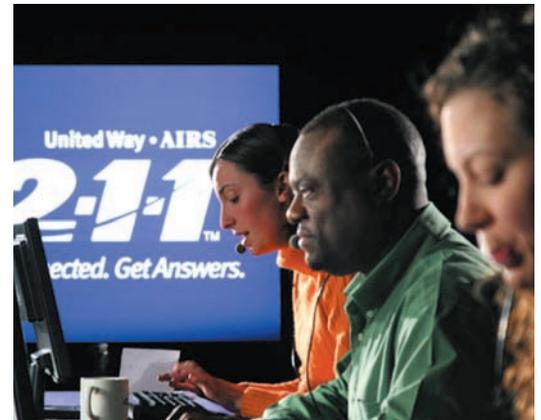
Assistance is also always available online at [www.uwstark.org/united-way2-1-1helps](http://www.uwstark.org/united-way2-1-1helps). Clients simply enter the need they are searching to meet, and a list of helpful services is provided. Each referral is based on the service closest to the client's location. Over 14,000 Stark County residents were connected with vital assistance through online referrals in 2015.

The most frequent need requests in 2015 both on the phone and online were for housing, food and utilities. Other needs expressed and referred included health related services, homeless services, foreclosure information, senior services, family counseling, support groups and parenting resource information.

Without 2-1-1 a person can make 10 to 14 phone calls to find the proper service to meet his or her needs. With 2-1-1 that number is reduced to one. United Way's 2-1-1 reduces the time searching for a solution and quickly moves the caller to assistance. Providing immediate assistance helps 2-1-1 fulfill its mission of providing excellent customer service while helping people find the help they need, when they need it.

Each call is treated with individual attention. Trained specialists listen to each unique situation in order to provide the best assistance. If no assistance program is available locally, the specialist will brainstorm solutions with the client so no need remains unmet.

"The 2-1-1 staff is a cohesive, diverse team who pride themselves in having a robust database and in providing callers with exceptional customer service. We take pride in the level of care and compassion our staff members show to every client and in our collaborative efforts to



assist clients in securing assistance regardless of the need. Rather than simply answering questions, we provide the intangible benefit of asking the right questions to ensure we go deeper to understand the heart of the clients' most pressing needs," Allton said.

Trained specialists engage in a relationship with the caller to discover needs even beyond the primary reason for calling. A recent call came from a single mother of three asking for assistance with purchasing diapers. The staff member continued talking to the mother and discovered the mother was also working part time while being a full-time student. Further conversation revealed the client's lights were shut off, and she had no supplies for her baby due in just two months.

The specialist was able to provide the mother with an appointment to receive baby clothes, diapers, a car seat, and other supplies for the child. The assistance provided through this 2-1-1 call allowed the mother to finish her schooling, and she is currently working full time and supporting her family.

Referrals are made to federal, state, and local government agencies, community-based organizations, private nonprofits, and volunteer opportuni-

*continued on page 18*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WINTER/SPRING 2016

## **Adult Easter Egg Hunt**

March 12  
The Legends

## **Friends of Stark Parks 5th Annual Roarin' 20s Casino Night**

March 12  
Massillon Woman's Club

## **Underwater Egg Hunt**

March 19  
1:00 pm  
Massillon Recreation Center

## **Egg & Candy Scramble**

March 26  
Community Park

## **April Pools Day**

April 1  
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

## **Volunteer Park Clean-Up Month**

April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Massillon Recreation Center

## **Daffodil Luncheon**

April 7 & 8  
11:00 am Punch  
11:30 am Program  
12:15 pm Lunch  
Massillon Woman's Club

## **Dive-In Movie**

April 15  
9:00 pm  
Massillon Recreation Center

## **Junk in Your Trunk**

May 7  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Massillon Recreation Center  
Parking Lot

## **Spring Book Swap**

May 16 & 17, all day:  
Drop off books  
Massillon Recreation Center  
May 19, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm:  
Pick up books  
Massillon Recreation Center



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
*continued from page 16*



## Massillon Dixieland Jazz Band to Play Live Concert at Massillon Senior Center

MARY ELLEN HAWTHORN,  
 PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR, MASSILLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Beginning in March, downtown Massillon will once again enjoy the sound of Dixieland Jazz! On Tuesday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m., the Massillon Dixieland Jazz Band will present the first of its live monthly concerts at the Massillon Senior Center, 39 Lincoln Way West. On the last Tuesday of each month, this popular concert series, co-sponsored by the Massillon Public Library, is set to run from March through October and is free and open to the public.

Former Library Board Member James Chatterton, who plays drums with a similar band in Stow, invited a group of outstanding musician friends to play with him at the Massillon Public Library once a month. The band performed its first concert in January of 2009 to a full house, despite the winter storm that raged that evening. It was clear by the attendance that first night that this series of concerts would soon outgrow its location at the Library.

Most of the band members have years of experience playing traditional and swing music with bands like the Community Jazz Band and EARLYJAS. The band's leader and trumpet player is local optometrist Tom Altland who has also played with the Tired Tigers and the Clinton Community Band. Joining him on the trumpet and trombone is Dave Bridenstine, a retired local attorney.

Trombonists, Dave Bair and Dennis Smith, play gigs around the area in several community bands. Barrett Taylor, who plays with the Stow Library and Hudson bands, plays clarinet. Jim Drain, with extensive experience in local blues, rock, country, and big bands, is the group's pianist. Ron Benach, a former school band director and accomplished musician, usually plays banjo but also joins in on bass and guitar from time to time. Tim Turkal, a well-known Massillon musician/entertainer, is the group's guitarist. Eileen Freeze, former teacher, delivers silky-smooth vocals and plays the ukulele. She has her own band and participates in many jam sessions and entertains at retirement homes.

The concert consists of traditional New Orleans jazz and is open to musicians, young and old, who want to sit in and jam with the band.

Free on-street parking, as well as two-hour free parking in the parking deck behind the Senior Center building, is available to the public. Handicapped parking is also available on street level beneath the parking deck. Attendees may enter the rear of the building from the parking deck.

For more information, contact Jim Chatterton at jrhatt41@gmail.com or log onto the Library's website: [www.massillonlibrary.org](http://www.massillonlibrary.org). ❖

### **Memorial Day Service**

May 30  
 8:45 am  
 Veterans Memorial Park

### **Memorial Day Parade**

May 30  
 9:30 am  
 1st Street South near Veterans Memorial Park, North to Lincoln Way, west to Erie Street, south toward Massillon Cemetery

### **Rose Luncheon**

June 1 & 2  
 11:00 am Punch  
 11:30 am Program  
 12:15 pm Lunch  
 Massillon Woman's Club

### **Massillon Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing**

June 3  
 The Elms

### **IMPACT Massillon**

(Similar to the C.O.O.L. Project)  
 June 4

### **Massillon's Farmers' Market**

Saturdays, June 4 to October 1  
 8:00 am to 12:00 pm  
 Massillon Recreation Center  
 Parking Lot

### **Camp Out**

June 17  
 8:00 pm to 8:00 am  
 Community Park

### **Cruise-On-In and Dance Party**

June 18  
 11:00 am to 10:00 pm  
 Downtown Massillon

### **Movie in the Park**

June 24, July 22 & August 19  
 At dusk  
 Community Park

### **Touch A Truck**

June 25  
 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 Community Park

### **Massillon Museum Island Party**

July 15  
 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

*continued on page 18*

## 2-1-1 continued

ties. Each referral is based on the specific need and may connect the client to several resources.

For example, if a call is made requesting help with taxes, the referral will be made to United Way's free tax preparation program. Sometimes referrals to several services provide the complete assistance needed for the situation. A call needing home-

less services may result in a referral for clothing or housing through an area program or through United Way direct services.

United Way of Greater Stark County's 2-1-1 service also serves Tuscarawas, Jefferson, Carroll, Coshocton, Washington, and Harrison counties for a population of 700,000. 2-1-1 is available in 67

Ohio counties, and over 90% of Ohio's population has access to 2-1-1 services.

As temperatures drop and snow piles up, area residents search for assistance to beat winter. By simply dialing 2-1-1, anyone can be connected with the resources necessary for assistance in resolving a specific situation. ❖

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS *continued from page 17*

#### **Drum Corps International Competition**

August 8  
7:30 pm  
Paul Brown Tiger Stadium

#### **BBQ Grill-Off**

August 11

#### **Lincoln Hi-Way Buy-Way Sale**

August 13  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

#### **Fun Fest**

August 13  
10:00 am to 2:00 pm  
Downtown Massillon

#### **Next Issue of *City of Champions Today***

August 24, 2016

*\*Dates are subject to change*

*See page 23 for Summer Concert Series dates and the City of Champions Independence Day Celebration information.*

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Phone: 330-832-1371

### DRIVE-THRU HOURS

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Fri: 9am-6pm  
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Phone: 330-832-1371

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Fri. Drive-up open until 6pm

618600224



Ribbon-cutting at Lifecare

# New Family Health Center Opens In Massillon

JULIA DICK,  
MOLA PRODUCTIONS ADVERTISING PUBLIC RELATIONS MARKETING EVENTS

## Lifecare Massillon Offers Basic Primary Medical Services and Welcomes New Patients

Lifecare Family Health and Dental Center opened a new Lifecare Health Center in early December, offering basic primary medical services to Massillon area residents. The Massillon Health Center, located at 820 Amherst Road NE, is open Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. for current and new patients.

Basic primary medical services are available at the new Lifecare Massillon Health Center, including physical exams, diabetes management, cancer screenings, blood pressure control, laboratory screenings, nutrition information, and health education.

“Lifecare is very pleased to expand into Massillon to provide quality primary healthcare for area residents,” said Lifecare CEO Kay Scarp. “We have had great cooperation from the community and we look forward to expanding our services and welcoming new patients.”

Lifecare Health Centers are open to persons of all ages regardless of their ability to pay and health insurance status. All insurances are accepted including Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance, as well as self-pay.

Lifecare Certified Application Counselors (CAC) are available to assist current and new patients with healthcare insurance choices. Lifecare’s CAC professionals are available by appointment.

To schedule a patient appointment or for more information about hours and available services, Massillon area residents may call Lifecare at 330-454-2000. Same day appointments are available.

In addition to the new Massillon Center, Lifecare’s team of family physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and healthcare professionals provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services at two locations in Canton, at 2725 Lincoln Street East, and at 409 Ninth Street SW, at the Goodwill Community Campus. Massillon patients may schedule an appointment at any of the three Lifecare Centers.

Lifecare opened its doors as the Richard D. Watkins Canton Community Clinic in 1994 and the name was changed to Lifecare Family Health and Dental Center in 2014. Lifecare is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which is a reimbursement designation from the Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Programs are funded under the Health Center Consolidation Act, section 330 of the Public Health Service Act. Centers are located in communities that need them the most. ❖



## GOLD STAR FAMILIES SERIES

# Remembering Heath

JULIE AND HAL BARKEY, GOLD STAR PARENTS

I can still remember his bright smile! It would light up the room and he had this twinkle in his eyes that I just loved! On November 22, the Warner family remembered their beloved son and brother, Pvt. Heath D. Warner, marking the ninth death anniversary—bittersweet, remembering the good memories and the bad ones of a life gone too early.

When I think about raising Heath, I think of one of my favorite songs “Maria” from The Sound of Music. Even though the song references a girl, the song describes our Heath. He was his own person, unique in every way. Gentle. Wild. Riddle. Headache. Child. Flighty. Darling. Demon. Lamb. Each word brings many memories, some funny, some sad, and some warm. I sensed Heath was a kindred soul with a kind heart and a free spirit from his early youth.

One of the funny stories I remember about Heath was about his skin color. Although he was biracial, Heath called himself Egyptian. At a young age, Heath discovered he loved books, and he found a book about Egyptians. He thought his skin color looked like the people in the book, so he referred to himself as Egyptian. Over time when it was appropriate we decided to talk to him about his skin color—we suggested his skin color was tan. He understood the concept of light and dark, so it was easy to share with him tan was a combination of light and dark colors. It seemed to settle the issue in his three-year-old mind.

While I attended graduate school in Virginia Beach, Melissa, Heath, and I went to Williamsburg on the weekends. We were so poor we sat on the front porch of

Cracker Barrel with a dollar’s worth of hot balls. He liked to look in the stores, and we eventually bought him a colonial tri-corner hat, and toy muzzleloader. Heath loved his new “uniform” and he marched around the house like a little patriot.

I also took him to Jamestown, Yorktown, and many battlefields from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. I showed him where the troops lined up, and where ships were positioned in the harbors. He developed an appreciation for our nation’s history and, over the years, Heath and I often had interesting discussions about history, or the latest political news.

While growing up, Heath struggled to find his place with friends. The churches we attended were predominantly white, and the kids in the youth programs never really embraced Heath. He always felt like an outsider, and he struggled to find his identity. Heath was quirky, often voicing random thoughts or doing random things, and those who knew him just accepted his uniqueness. Over time, his friendships solidified with what we called the “neighborhood gang.” These kids grew up with our family, and they loved Heath through thick and thin—when we lost Heath, the neighborhood gang stood with us through our darkest moments.

When Heath was ten, he struggled to find himself. The black students didn’t accept him, often referring to him as “White Boy” and “Oreo.” When they asked Heath, “Why don’t you talk like us?” he responded, “I’m my own person.” He carried that sense of confidence throughout his entire young life!



In his early teen years, Heath taught himself break dancing. Before we knew it, Heath was busting some moves, and his friends were joining him. His best friends formed a group, the Ground Force Crew, and they began taking lessons at the Living Fountain Dance Company. The executive director took notice of Heath and asked him to teach break dancing to the youth of Canton. He gained confidence through performing and teaching, and his teaching turned out to be a turning point in his life. Heath nicknamed himself, Drifter...looking back it makes sense as he was trying to find his place in this world.

In high school, Heath came into his own as a person. He especially took an interest in foreign languages while taking German and, as a child, Heath loved to research different cultures. He was so inquisitive—somehow, this translated into his love for exotic foods such as octopus, squid, and rare fish. I

*continued on page 21*

often wondered, where did that come from? We were simple midwesterners and our foods were Italian and American fare—pasta, pizza, and barbecue.

Heath often talked of traveling to exotic places, especially Japan. Since middle school, Heath's bedroom walls sported posters of Bruce Lee and soldiers. He often talked about going into the military, and he thought of himself as a modern-day Samurai. I didn't take it seriously; I chalked it up to his youth. However, we came from a family of military service.

On September 11, 2001, I was at work listening to a talk radio station when the radio host announced, "A plane has crashed into one of the Twin Towers in lower Manhattan." In my mind, I pictured a Cessna, misguided in morning fog, crashing into one of the towers. I never imagined the magnitude of the events that were unfolding. Moments later, a reporter was interviewing an eyewitness to the first airliner crashing into the tower, when the interviewee suddenly screamed as a second airliner crashed into the second tower. My first thought was terrorists. My co-workers and I were glued to our radios and computers; I didn't have clue how drastically the national tragedy would intimately change our family.

Heath came home from school that afternoon and announced, "I'm going to fight for my country." However, I hoped any conflict arising out of this horrific event would be over by the time he graduated since he was only a freshman. As he finished his high school years at McKinley Senior High, he had one thought on his mind—to serve his country. During his junior year, recruiters called the house daily to recruit Heath, and I finally asked them to stop calling. I wanted Heath to have the rest of his junior year to consider his options.

That worked until the beginning of his senior year when the phone began

ringing again, and Heath decided he wanted to become a Marine. I invited the recruiter to our home, and asked him to bring the book with all the Military Occupational Specialties for which Heath was qualified. I sat on the ottoman; Heath was on the couch next to the recruiter; and Melissa sat on the loveseat. The recruiter went page by page, explaining all of the positions for which Heath was qualified. However, Heath just sat there shaking his head no with his arms folded, saying "Infantry." He wouldn't settle for anything else.

Our kindhearted son was going to become a warrior.

Melissa and I felt we had no option but to support him. We signed the paperwork for him to register into the delayed entry program of the United States Marine Corp. The delayed entry program allowed Heath to enlist as an inactive reservist while in his senior year of high school, and Heath vowed to be one of America's best—a Marine. While in the delayed entry program, Heath began attending the weekly training of upcoming recruits in advance of boot camp. For his entire senior year, we prepared for Heath's departure. It was a scary thought knowing our son was training to go to war in Iraq. At his graduation, Heath entered the Canton Civic Center as a Marine, making a sharp left turn into the row where he was to sit. The entire family and his friends laughed! Knowing Heath was going to war, I went all out on his graduation party—in the back of my mind, I thought, this could be the last party I ever throw for him, and we had it catered at our home.

The summer after his graduation ended too soon; in August of 2005, we met at the MEPS center to send Heath off to boot camp. Our nerves were on edge as we watched Heath sign his contract and recite his Oath of Service to his country. As we waited for the bus to Paris Island, we took family pho-

tos. Heath wasn't nervous at all—in fact, he was so excited he couldn't wait to get on that bus! When it finally arrived, he gave each of us a hug, and we said our final "I love you" to Heath. He peered out the window, smiling, and waving to us as the bus departed. It was a stark contrast to other families who were crying, and following the bus as it pulled out.

Now it was Heath's turn to fly, and he was ready to soar. Heath loved boot camp and I remember bringing him home and stopping at almost every fast food restaurant along the drive back from Paris Island to Canton. He was eventually stationed at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, with the 3/2 Marine Island Warriors detachment. Heath deployed for Iraq on September 11, 2006. It was the last day his feet would touch American soil, a day of last goodbyes, texts, and phone calls. He was a gunner on a Humvee and was killed by an IED on November 22, 2006. On that day God took Heath in his arms and left a hero to be remembered in his place.

Heath was a deep-thinking person—on his MySpace page he quoted Bruce Lee: "Life's battles don't always go to the stronger or faster man, but, sooner or later, the man who wins is the man who thinks he can." Heath realized life was hard work, but he was determined to become a Marine, and nothing was going to stop him. He also wrote: "Spend some time with me, and you'll know who I am!"

We remember Heath as a 19-year-old teenager who was a courageous, selfless, special, unique person, and those of us who knew him loved him and appreciated his uniqueness. Heath you are forever loved and we miss you! Love Dad, Mom, Chandler, and Ashton

## Forever 19

By Scott N. Warner

I remember the first day when we found out that your mother was expecting.

It's hard to believe it was 27 years

## GOLD STAR FAMILIES SERIES continued

ago that you were born on January 2. You grew up quickly, a sweet curious child who liked to play with things. You had a sense of adventure, which guided you to find your own life and way to be.

You were beyond your years for your age, but you are now and forever will be 19.

I remember when we married, you, your mom and me.

It's hard to believe it was 23 years ago and we moved to Virginia Beach. In time you decided it was ok to share mommy and found a new life together.

You grew to love me as your dad and we made our house a home. You were beyond your years for your age, but you are now and forever will be 19.

I remember how quickly your school years went and before we

knew it you were 18.

You were graduated and off to boot camp, your dream to become a Marine.

Mom and Dad, I am going to fight over there so you don't have to fight them over here.

We were scared but you assured us it would all be ok.

Your courage and your bravery were years beyond your age, but you are now and forever will be 19.

I remember three Marines came into our home and told us you were gone.

A bomb in Iraq had taken your life and we were left to mourn.

The sting of grief and toll of your death have been hard on us all. For the years have come and gone but we will never forget, a son and a brother, who thought more of others and gave his life for all.

And you are now and forever will be remembered as only 19.

We still miss and grieve your loss, and are finding our way forward. Although it's still hard, I think we will be better people as we learn difficult life lessons, which will forge each of us into who God has called us to be. Heath on your birthday we will share a German Chocolate cake—your favorite—and celebrate your life once more.

And you are now and forever will be remembered as only 19. Thank you friends for your support; we could not do this alone.

Wishing you a Happy Birthday in Heaven, Heath...

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Chandler, and Ashton



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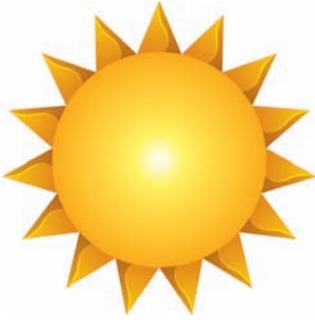
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# Summer Concert Series 2016



Thursday, June 16	(7:30 pm)	The Avalons
Thursday, June 23	(7:30 pm)	The Stickers
Thursday, June 30	(7:30 pm)	Rumours
Thursday, July 7	(7:30 pm)	The Avenue
Thursday, July 14	(7:30 pm)	Jimmy & The Soul Blazers
Thursday, July 21	(7:30 pm)	The Sweet Beats
Thursday, July 28	(7:30 pm)	The Belairs
Thursday, August 4	(7:30 pm)	LaFlavour
Thursday, August 11	(7:30 pm)	Rumplestiltskin

**Donations accepted**

***Duncan Plaza Concerts- Monday Night Concerts TBA***  
Duncan Plaza - Located in front of the Massillon Municipal Building - Bring a chair  
***City of Champions Independence Day Celebration***

**Fireworks presented by Aqua Ohio @ approximately 10:00 pm**

**Sunday July 3 (7:30 pm) Live music by: *New Wave Nation***  
**At Paul Brown Tiger Stadium grounds**

**Website: [www.massillonohio.com](http://www.massillonohio.com) Phone: 330-830-1700**

## City of Champions Independence Day Celebration **Li'l Miss Liberty & Li'l Uncle Sam Event** **Paul Brown Tiger Stadium ★ Sunday, July 3 ★ 6:10 pm** (Pageant will be held in WHS auditorium in the event of inclement weather)

### **RULES FOR PARTICIPATION**

1. The event is open to all boys and girls in the following categories: 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, 5-year-olds, 6-year-olds, and 7-year-olds.
2. Children are requested to appear in red, white, and blue clothing. No "pageant-style" clothing or costumes are recommended.
3. Children registered for this event will not be accompanied on stage by anyone other than the volunteers from the committee. Children who are unwilling to appear on stage alone should not be forced to enter the event. No parents or guardians are permitted on stage unless the child needs assistance.
4. Parents and guardians are responsible for knowing and abiding by these rules. In addition, parents and guardians agree to not hold the City of Champions Independence Day Committee liable if any accidents should occur.

5. A completed entry form (below) can be submitted in the Mayor's office until 4:30 pm on July 2, or at the event from 5:00 to 5:30 pm to receive an official registration number. Every child must have a number to participate.

6. Participants must report to the registration table by 5:30 pm for line-up. Judging will begin promptly at 6:10 pm. Judging will be based on personality, spontaneity, and interaction with the judges and host.

7. All participants will receive a small gift. Title winners will receive a crown and a prize. Title-winning girls will additionally receive a sash.
8. Submission of this entry form indicates that parents and guardians agree that if their children are winners, their pictures may appear in advertising.

Questions? Contact Margaret Elum at 330-830-1702 ❖

### **Li'l Miss Liberty & Li'l Uncle Sam Event Entry Form**

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS FORM, PRINT INFORMATION, AND MAIL TO:  
Li'l Miss Liberty & Li'l Uncle Sam Event, 151 Lincoln Way East, Massillon, OH 44646

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle age: 3 4 5 6 7 Please circle: Boy Girl Registration # : \_\_\_\_\_ Office Use Only

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# How the Massillon “Village” Helped Heal My Family

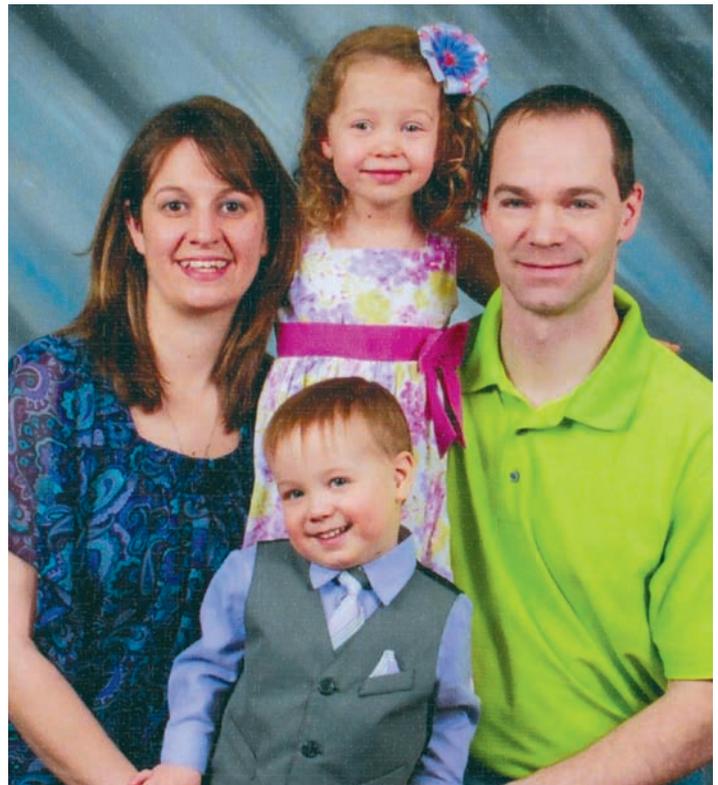
ERIN WISE,  
WIC DIRECTOR

In the WIC world we like to use the quote, “It takes a village to raise a child.” I would have never imagined how much my local village could have helped my own family. My two-year-old son, Tegan Wise, was diagnosed with Multisystem Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) on January 16, 2015. LCH, is a rare cancer that begins in Langerhans cells, a type of dendritic cell which fights infection. This disease is believed to occur in 1:200,000 children. Multisystem LCH occurs in two or more organs or body systems or may be spread throughout the body and is even more rare than single system LCH. Tegan has been receiving chemotherapy treatment throughout 2015 at Rainbow Babies and Children’s Hospital. The original course of treatment was supposed to last one year. In September, while on maintenance chemotherapy, Tegan had a flare-up of LCH in the soft tissues of his ear, his mastoid bone, and his temporal bone. This flare-up lead to a biopsy of the mastoid bone and ear canal tissues that found new deposits of active LCH.

The results of the biopsy required a change to Tegan’s treatment course in October. His new course of treatment requires a stronger chemotherapy agent, as well as more frequent visits to the hospital, not only for chemotherapy, but also for blood-level checks and physical assessments. Tegan is required to be at the hospital for treatment five consecutive days every twenty-eight days, and then he returns to the hospital every week for his routine check-up and blood work. This treatment course is scheduled to last at least until November 2016.

Throughout all of this time, Tegan continues to have a smile on his face and loves to visit all of his “friends” at the hospital. Although this treatment course is much stronger and he has many more side effects, when you tell him it is time to go to see his doctors, he is the first one in the car. He also can tell you anything that you need to know about how to get his tail on (his port accessed) and how to give his tail a drink (his chemotherapy). Tegan remains very spirited, and his strength is helping to get the entire family through this trying time.

Being the full-time mother of a sick child is hard enough. Add to that trying to work full-time in a busy clinic and keeping my administrative duties in my office from falling behind, and you can imagine that I have been stretched very thin. That is where the “village” of Massillon City employees has stepped in to help my family tremendously. My office partner, Vicki Porter, kept



*Erin, Sydney and Shawn Wise, Tegan Wise in front*

the WIC office flowing, even if it means spending her own time making many phone calls back and forth to me from the hospital. The Health Department staff helps hold me together on the tough days that I am at work but would rather be home with my sick child. They have offered support, prayers, and many days of creative thinking and work hours to help us. In October, they transformed the Health Department into a wonderful Halloween “neighborhood” complete with costumes and decorations for my children to be able to trick or treat, since he would not be well enough to trick or treat around the neighborhood. City Council members have shown up at benefits for Tegan. The Mayor has allowed the Health Commissioner to offer a flexible work schedule and has offered help to my family. Numerous City employees have generously donated their sick time to allow me the ability to be there for Tegan during his treatments and not need to worry about all of the additional time that I will need to take off in 2016. None of these people have medical degrees; none of these people are on my son’s extensive list of doctors; and yet, all of these individuals have come together to help one little boy and his family in the battle of their lives. They have rallied around as my own village to help my family through this difficult time and to help give us the strength we need to continue our battle towards his healing. ❖



1



2

**1—4 LIGHT-UP DOWNTOWN**

1. *Holiday Tree*
2. *Santa at the Light-Up Downtown*
3. *Drenna Schumacher and the bike Santa presented, which was donated by Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry*
4. *Jacob Roth and the bike Santa presented, which was donated by Sheriff George Maier*
5. *Presents that city departments bought for the family the city adopted for the holidays*



3



4



5



6



7

**6—7 MAYOR'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

6. *Judge Edward Elum administers the oath of office to Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry, who is surrounded by her family at the Massillon Woman's Club*
7. *The Shiloh Baptist Church male chorus performed at the Mayor's swearing-in ceremony*

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