

Winter 2015

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Massillon, Ohio

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Inside:

• Best Recipe • Letter from the Mayor • *Your Massillon* Photo Gallery

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LETTER FROM THE **MAYOR**



Welcome to the winter issue of *City of Champions Today*.

As Massillon settles into the cold of winter, we carry forward warm memories of shared holiday celebrations.

The ice and sleet in late November didn't dampen the enthusiasm shown by the participants in Massillon's Annual Holiday Parade.

Our downtown was once again festively decorated because our community came together and generously replaced the holiday decorations lost in the fire that struck our friends at the A.A. Hammersmith Agency building earlier this year.

Holly Days and the Family Christmas Celebration brought visitors and good cheer to our downtown and its dedicated merchants, and nearly 1,000 people participated in the Community Candlelight Walk, enjoying fellowship, music, and visiting area churches, while celebrating our community of faith.

It has been a busy year in the City of Massillon as we continue to strive to make Massillon a better place to live, work, worship, and play.

In 2014, Massillon became a "Purple Heart City," in recognition of our support for our military veterans. We greatly appreciate the sacrifices of the service men and women who protect our nation on a daily basis. Massillon has always honored its veterans. We have a Veterans Memorial Wall, a military history museum, Veterans Memorial Park and other reminders of our community's strong support of those who have served.

I was humbled as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3124 recently honored me with "special recognition for exceptional service," but this award is not mine alone. It belongs to everyone in our city, as we all come together to support our veterans and recognize their dedicated service.

My administration continues to work daily on the issues so many residents care about, bringing jobs and economic development to our city, putting our financial house back in order, and keeping our community safe. We have been successful because the people of Massillon are strong, resilient, and dedicated to building a better community. It is the people of Massillon who truly make us the City of Champions.

I wish everyone the very best for a joyful New Year!

Sincerely,

KATHY CATAZARO-PERRY
MAYOR, CITY OF MASSILLON
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Causes and Circumstances of Home Candle Fires

BY REGGIE WINTERS, MASSILLON FIRE INSPECTOR

- On average, 42 home candle fires are reported every day.
- More than half of all candle fires start when something that could burn, such as furniture, mattresses or bedding, curtains, or decorations, are too close to the candle.
- In one-fifth (20%) of candle fires, the candles are unattended or abandoned.
- Over one-third (36%) of home candle fires begin in the bedroom.
- Falling asleep is a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 36% of the associated deaths.
- December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 13% of home candle fires begin with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year.
- One-half of home candle fire deaths occur between midnight and 6:00 a.m.
- Young children and older adults have the highest death

risk from candle fires.

- The risk of fatal candle fires appears higher when candles are used for light.

The number of residential fires caused by candles has increased significantly. Burn candles in holders that will catch dripping wax and NEVER leave a candle unattended. Put candles in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders. Consider using battery-operated or electric flameless candles and fragrance warmers, which can look, smell, and feel like real candles—without the flame. If you do use candles, ensure they are in sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic holders and placed where they cannot be easily knocked down. Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas. Extinguish candles after use and before going to bed. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets. Set a good example by using matches, lighters, and fire carefully. Children should never be allowed to play with matches, lighters, or candles. Never use a candle where medical oxygen is being used. The two can combine to create a large, unexpected fire. Always use a flashlight—not a candle—for emergency lighting. Never put candles on a Christmas tree. When using in home worship, don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them, or pass handheld candles from one person to another. To lower the risk of fire, candles should be used by only a few designated adults.

"When in doubt make sure they are out." ◆





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Murdocco Services

BY LOUISE PRITCHARD



On March 31, 2014, Murdocco Services, a full-service restoration company, relocated to Massillon. We are located at 1212 Oak Avenue SW in the old Superior Credit Union building. The building is being remodeled to feature a showroom where customers may come in to see samples of flooring, cabinets, countertops, windows, siding, roofing, and more.

Murdocco Services is a company specializing in fire restoration, water mitigation, mold remediation, construction, remodeling, and electrical services. We also provide 24-hour emergency services such as roof-tarping and board-ups. If you have a loss at your business or residence or would like to remodel or upgrade, we can provide services to restore or renew your property from start to finish, working with just one company.

We specialize in emergency and disaster restoration. Our experienced professionals are aware of the time

restraints required and demanded of a responsible restoration company. By documenting everything needed for your records and working with your insurance company, we get your claim processed quickly so that your home or business can be restored to normal as soon as possible.

The company is owned and operated by Mark Murdocco, a Brewster firefighter, who has over 20 years' experience in the business. He knows firsthand the devastation a fire or other disaster can have on a home or business owner. Mark will personally meet with you and explain the estimate and work process to put you at ease.

Need some ideas for remodeling? We can help with that. You can see projects we have completed on our website, murdoccoservices.com, or you can visit our Facebook page. Call 330-880-0424 for more information or 330-697-2268 for emergency assistance. ❖



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We welcome you to Hospitality House. To schedule a tour or to get more information, contact us by phone at (330) 837-2100, by fax at (330) 837-2454, or by email at s.glaserman@hospitalityhouse.us.

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From the Housing Department



BY BEVERLY A. LEWIS
HOUSING DIRECTOR

The Housing Department for the City of Massillon would like to give a shout out 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.

The Housing Department presently has a waiting list of those seeking (full rehab) assistance, many of whom have been waiting for a long time. However, we are working through the list, updating it as well—with hopes that we will be able to get to more of you sooner.

As we purge the list, it is our desire to refrain from having so many

persons wait so long for assistance. With that being said, we are not adding any more names to the waiting list, at this time. With the limited amount received to assist a homeowner per year, it is a disadvantage to you to be on a list of forty or more people waiting with hope to receive assistance within a reasonable amount of time.

Later this year we will be able to provide more emergency assistance, and our first-time homebuyer program is available for those who qualify and desire to purchase a home in the City of Massillon. If you want more information about any of our programs, please do not hesitate to call us at 330-830-1717.

Thanks 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 year for the citizens of Massillon and that the Housing Department can continue to provide you the best possible service. ❖



Mayor Kathy
Catazaro-Perry
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Chief Moser on far right, 2nd row, with rest of the 132nd class.

Training in the Police Department



BY CHIEF KEITH T. MOSER



In August of this year, I was able to be the first officer from Massillon PD to attend the Administrative Officers Course (AOC) administered by the Southern Police Institute (SPI) at the University of Louisville, Kentucky. I was lucky enough to apply for and receive funding from the Dorothy P. Clore Scholarship and the John C. Klotter Scholarship. These funds were extremely helpful in offsetting a portion of the costs associated with the course.

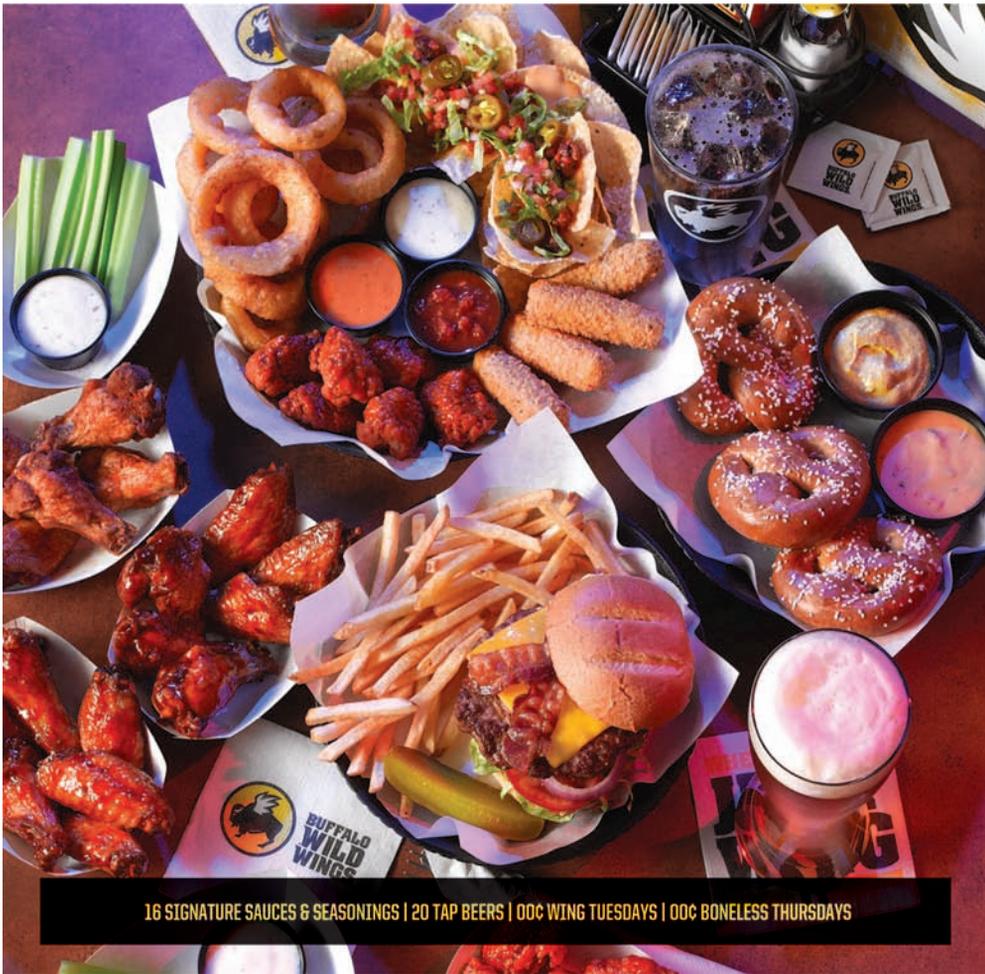
Course Description:

The Administrative Officers Course is a twelve-week (480-hour) in-residence, accredited college-level educational program. The course curriculum is designed to develop informed, effective, and ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies. It is an appropriate course for individuals in or about to be promoted to middle and upper management positions. This comprehensive development program provides instruction in law enforcement issues, diagnostic problem-solving, and administrative law. The varied methods of instruction used by the faculty permit participants to engage their individual creativity and initiative

through the analytical examination of issues and problems faced by contemporary law enforcement executives. This course is required as a prerequisite for appointment to the position of police chief by many government jurisdictions throughout the United States. Numerous graduates of the Administrative Officers Course are among today's law enforcement leaders directing agencies throughout the United States and abroad. (<http://louisville.edu/spi/courses/aoc>)

The AOC is comparable to the well-known FBI National Academy. The AOC attracts officers from around the world, and my class, the 132nd, consisted of 48 officers from 37 agencies in 16 states. I have the utmost respect for all of the officers I attended class with and I feel humbled by being a part of such an exceptional group. The greatest benefit of the class is, without a doubt, the relationships that were created with such a diverse and experienced group of law enforcement professionals.

I would like to give special thanks to my wife, Stefanie, and kids, Kyle and Kaden, for their support and understanding during the 12 weeks I was away. I know it was not easy. ❖



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GOLD STAR FAMILIES series

Forever in Our Hearts: Aaron Seesan

BY TOM AND CHIQUITA SEESAN

Toy soldiers became a way of life for Aaron at an early age. He would spend hours creating elaborate battle scenes in the sand-box. His siblings often complained that he was “hogging” the whole sand-box which led to marking off specific areas where all could play in peace (that is if Aaron didn’t embark on a strategic battle with the other sandbox creations).

He attended Massillon Washington High, where he lettered in football and track. He was on the speech team and was a member of the Academic Challenge Team. Every project, essay, term paper, or art project assigned to him always involved a military theme. When asked by Dad if there were any other subjects he could use as a theme, he simply said, “No.” He graduated with honors in 1999.

He was an Eagle Scout with Troop 122. His Eagle Project was re-landscaping the “horseshoe” garden at Lincoln Park in Massillon, where the Aaron Seesan Memory Garden now stands. Aaron was active in St. Joseph’s parish where he was a member of the youth group and served as an altar server.

He received an appointment to the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, and graduated with a degree in Marine Systems Engineering. Upon graduation, he entered the U. S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. From there Aaron was sent to Ft. Leonard Wood to receive additional training in army engineering and to participate in the “Sapper” leadership program. After a stint at Ft. Benning in Georgia, where he received his paratrooper “wings,” (barely making it home a few hours before being best man in his brother’s wedding), he left for Ft. Lewis in



Washington State. He was with the 73rd Engineer Company, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Unit) Combat Engineer. He celebrated his 24th birthday and was promoted to First Lieutenant while in Iraq.

Deployment to Iraq was in February 2005. On May 21, 2005, he and the platoon he was leading returned from a critical mission. Because of a breakdown in the equipment of another platoon, Aaron and his crew were asked to take over that mission. Although already overworked and weary, Aaron’s platoon agreed to take the mission near Mosul. He was critically wounded when an IED exploded under the Humvee in which he was riding. He was flown to the American Hospital in Landstuhl, Germany, where he died on May 22, 2005. Burial was on May 31, 2005, and he now rests in St. Joseph’s Cemetery in Massillon. ❖



Downtown Massillon Growth...Opportunity...Optimism

BY LARRY MARCUS

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Downtown Massillon is quickly becoming a destination for both residents and non-residents. This past year alone, the city has added ten new storefronts to the downtown landscape. These new enterprises include:

Walgreen's, Gallery 121, Bronze Goddess, Go Low Golf, Chit Chat Coffee Shoppe, Hannah Candles, Sangria Stand, Marie's Home Parties, Sugar Mama's Sweet Shop, and Anderson's in the City. As part of the City's economic development efforts, Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry and others have worked hard to attract many of these new stores to our town. The City provided assistance in the form of economic development grants to Gallery 121, Sangria Stand, and Sugar Mama's Sweet Shop. Of note, most of these new storefronts replaced vacant storefronts, one of which was vacant for almost 30 years. Filling vacant storefronts not only improves the downtown, but it adds to job growth and paves the way for additional development.

Downtown Massillon is becoming a budding arts and entertainment center for the area. Many of the establishments (Gallery 121 and Chit Chat Coffee Shoppe, for example) are now providing additional entertainment opportunities such as live music. The Mayor and local

leaders have re-energized the 20/20 Vision committee to help promote the arts and downtown. The group enthusiastically supports "Second Saturday" each month to entice more people downtown. Organized with many of the downtown merchants, Second Saturday features live entertainment, specials, and extended hours. To help get the word out, Gallery 121, Kozmo's, and the Alibi Bar have provided essential promotional activities.

On another note, Sangria Stand is not only a store but also a focus of arts in downtown. The store nurtures the arts while selling art products, offering art classes, and hosting special event parties for all ages.

The progress at the heart of the city has created locally owned retail shopping, new jobs, and new businesses, and has elevated the appearance of the downtown. This growth is helping existing downtown icons like the Massillon Museum, the Lincoln Theatre, and the Massillon Public Library. Additionally, the Lincoln Theatre recently received a sizeable grant from the Stark Community Foundation to make improvements to its building. All of this growth is attracting more growth, opportunity, and optimism for our downtown, enhancing the quality of life for all of Massillon. ❖

PSC Metals—New Jobs & Investment



BY LARRY MARCUS
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



With the opening of a new scrap metal recycling location at 359 State Street NW, the City of Massillon helped attract 26 new jobs and approximately \$25 million in capital investment by PSC Metals, Inc. The Cleveland-based company is a technology frontrunner and national leader in scrap recycling with over 40 US locations. The company picked Massillon, but also looked at a new plant in Akron or expanding its existing plant in Tennessee. In the end, PSC chose Massillon because of the site, access to highway and rail, and proximity to many of their industrial customers. The site, formerly known as World Kitchen, includes more than 80,000 square feet of plant space on 17 acres.

An economic development incentive package was developed by the City of Massillon and the State of Ohio that included grants and rare Ohio job creation tax credits. Ultimately, the local economic development grant was enough to entice PCS Metals to come to Massillon, and we're glad they did. The new facility will require a sizeable capital investment in the plant and equipment, and, of course, people to work there. It will be processing and shredding large metal pieces using new technology that improves shredding and reduces the amount of waste going to landfills. PSC Metals is not new to our area; it also has a scrap collecting location at 780 Warmington Road SW, in Navarre. ❖



Oak Knoll Park

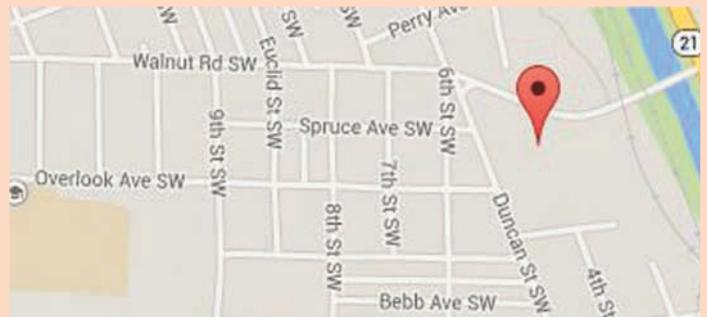
Your City Parks

BY LISA BENTON
CITY OF MASSILLON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING SUPERVISOR

In each issue of the *City of Champions Today* magazine, I will write an article on one of YOUR city parks including the history surrounding it and what amenities it offers today. In this issue I will talk about Oak Knoll Park, located at 618 Sixth Street SW.

In 1861 Ohio Governor William Dennison authorized the establishment of many camps across the State of Ohio to help speed soldiers' inductions into Ohio's military and to assist President Abraham Lincoln in reuniting the nation. One of these camps, Camp Massillon, was set up in and named after the City of Massillon. This camp was used by the 104th, the 114th, and the 115th Regiments of the Ohio Volunteer Infantries. The camp was located in what is now known as Oak Knoll Park and was used only for a short time until 1862.

Joseph Davenport was the founder of the Massillon Bridge Company. One of his early pieces of work was the iron bridge that originally stood in Alliance and is now located at Oak Knoll Park. This is said to be the oldest iron bridge in Ohio. It was replaced in 1899 and moved to its current location in Oak Knoll Park.



I never saw them, but at one point in time, two bears were also housed in Oak Knoll Park. I remember as a young child visiting the park—playing in the cages where the bears, Maggie and Jiggs, were contained. There was not much between them and their viewers except some metal bars. At the time the bears were there, along with an elk, it was considered the local “zoo.”

Today, Oak Knoll Park houses a kids' wading pool (open from June to August), a playground, an enclosed pavilion, an open pavilion, a picnic area, and bathrooms that are open to the public from April to October. The enclosed pavilion has air conditioning and is available for rent during the spring, summer, and fall. Contact the Massillon Recreation Center at 330-832-1621 or visit the website at www.massillonparks.com.

Park and Rec and Senior Events

“The Mad Hatter” Daddy Daughter and Mommy and Me Dances

The Legends of Massillon banquet facility will be transformed into a “Mad Hatter” Tea Party. Moms and Dads, plan on spending some quality time with the special little boys or girls in your life and provide them with memories that will last a lifetime. A professional DJ will provide entertainment and party games for the evening. Tickets are limited, so be sure to purchase yours early!

- Daddy/Daughter - Friday, February 6, at The Legends of Massillon from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Mommy & Me - Friday, February 20, at The Legends of Massillon from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The cost to attend these events is \$45 per couple and \$12 for each additional child.

Chocolate and Wine Tasting Event (Adults 21 & over)

Our first annual Chocolate and Wine Tasting event will be held just in time for Valentine’s Day. Stop in to sample all the rich and flavorful chocolates from several different vendors in our area and pair it with your favorite wine. Chocolates will be available for purchase to take home as a treat for yourself or a gift for your favorite Valentine.

The event is being held at The Legends of Massillon from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 7. The cost to enter the event is \$10 per person, which includes samples of chocolates and soda. The cost of wine is \$4 per glass.

American Red Cross Babysitter’s Class (15 & older)

The American Red Cross Babysitter’s Training shows you how to respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid rescue breathing and other appropriate care; how to make decisions under pressure; how to communicate with parents to make household rules; how to recognize and manage safety and hygiene issues; how to manage young children; and how to feed, diaper, and care for infants. After this class, you can start earning money as a certified babysitter.

This class is on Saturday, February 7, at the Massillon Recreation Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost to participate in this training is \$50 per person.

Adult Nighttime Easter Egg Hunt (Adults 21 & over)

The Massillon Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to announce our first Adult Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs will be hidden throughout The

Legends of Massillon Golf Course for adults, ages 21 and over. Some will have tickets in them for a great surprise, including gift cards, electronics, prize baskets, and more.

This event will be held at The Legends of Massillon on, Friday, March 27, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Tickets to participate in this event are \$20 per person and include two tickets for beer or wine and light appetizers.

Egg and Candy Scramble (ages 10 & under)

Our annual Egg and Candy Scramble is fun for the whole family. Children 10 years of age and younger will gather eggs filled with candy, treats, and special prizes. A visit with the Easter Bunny is also planned.

This event will be held at Community Park on Saturday, March 28. The horn will sound at 11:00 a.m. sharp, rain or shine! There is no cost for your child (age 10) and younger to participate in this event!

Senior Center Activities

The Massillon Senior Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is located at 39 Lincoln Way West. Yearly membership dues are \$10.00, valid January through December 2015 (parking pass and newsletter included in membership fee).

AARP Free Tax Service is available for seniors and low-income families every Monday and Thursday from February 2 through Monday, April 13.

Free Monthly Legal Aid with a local attorney for seniors is offered by appointment only.

Meals on Wheels is available Monday through Friday at noon. Orders must be placed three working days in advance by calling 330-837-2672. All seniors 60 years and older are entitled to this program, no qualifications needed. (Suggested donation: \$2.75).

Monthly Activity Club Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month except January. Activities include: Bingo, blood pressure checks, lunch, entertainment, business meeting, and refreshments.

Bowling is offered every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at Hall of Fame Lanes, 5155 W. Tuscarawas Street. (Senior Center membership required).

Exercise Class: Monday through Thursday at 8:30 a.m. (Low-impact stretching and moving designed for seniors).

Euchre: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:45 (refreshments provided on Friday).

For additional information, contact Senior Center Director Caroline Ferrel at 330-837-2784. ❖



Iron Bridge in Oak Knoll Park

Criminology and Justice Studies Degree

BY CYNTHIA WILLIAMS
PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

As a kid growing up in Southeast Texas, Deirdre Warren always had the same reply when asked what she wanted to be as an adult.

“The answer to that question has always been easy. I wanted to be a cop and a teacher and my career includes both,” she says.

Warren, an assistant professor of criminology and justice studies at Kent State University at Stark, was raised by parents who believed in higher education. “Both of my parents have master’s degrees,” she says. Texas, like most states, requires potential police officers to be at least 21 years old before applying. She admits being grateful for her parents’ encouragement, which led her to earn a bachelor’s degree while she reached the legal age to claim her first occupational goal as a patrol officer.

Although she enjoyed law enforcement, she realized that it wasn’t too late to fulfill the other role she was meant to achieve—a teacher. During her 14-year career in the police department, Sergeant Warren obtained her master’s degree and then chose to pursue a doctorate degree as a means to transform her experience into educational lessons for future officers.

While on the force, she patiently trained rookies, instinctively knowing if they could hack the rigors of the job within days of their probationary period. As a professor, she prepares Kent State Stark criminal and justice studies students for police work, in addition to numerous other fields.

Fight For Your Goals

“The professors taught us through real-life experiences,” says Taren Mitchell, a recent Kent State Stark graduate. “We learned a lot from hearing what they had experienced firsthand.”

Mitchell’s desire to protect and serve was influenced by her stepfather, a retired Ohio patrol officer. Her parents were very supportive of the dream that Kent State Stark help to make a reality. Faculty motivated her to fight for the goals she wanted to achieve. “Even though they told me it wouldn’t be easy—especially as a female officer—they really encouraged me,” she says.

A Stark County resident, she enrolled at Kent State’s largest regional campus because it was close to home and she didn’t have to pay room and board, which made her tuition more affordable. Mitchell found other benefits as her courses became more involved. “Our class sizes were small at the Stark Campus. That helped us get to



know each other and our professors very well,” she says. “We helped each other through the program, almost becoming family.”

Growing Opportunities

In the five years that Warren has taught at Kent State Stark, she’s been a catalyst for the growth of the criminology and justice studies program.

“We now have four concentrations that can be completed at the Stark Campus,” says Warren. Within the program, students can target their education and earn a bachelor’s degree specializing in policing, criminology and deviance, law and society, or general studies. The vast

set of skills that students learn prepares them to be the best at their jobs. Policing is changing. With community-oriented policing, agencies look for officers who have emotional intelligence, communication, critical thinking skills, ability to engender trust, cultural competency, resiliency, and a sense of service. We offer the opportunity to gain and develop those skills...and many more tools that they can keep in the forefront of their brains."

Warren discussed the numerous occupational options this degree can launch. "Many work in the court system as legal assistants or clerks and they can also use their degree as a foundation for law school." She gave examples of professions, including corrections and private security officers, juvenile facility employees, re-entry officials, federal agents, nonprofit and government agency staff, as well as sheriff, police, parole officials, and state patrol officers. She added that employers in these fields seek applicants who are educated and prepared to face the variety of situations that arise when they are on duty.

"There are some jobs related to this field that aren't as obvious," says Warren. "We offer a justice studies minor that benefits students in our program, as well as those earning other majors."

"The minor is the perfect complement to a family life education major," says Lisa Hallaman, a human development and family studies instructor at Kent State Stark. "It provides graduates of our program an understanding of

the legal system and the client population that they will serve each day," she says, noting positions that involve child protective services, substance abuse, juvenile detention, parenting instructors, and others. "Human development and family studies students who receive this well-rounded education of how the system works from the judicial side obtain related practicums more easily and with this knowledge, increase their employment prospects."

Dream Realized

On October 10, Mitchell graduated from the Police Academy, becoming one of Ohio's most recently appointed highway patrol officers. "My territory covers the Toledo Turnpike from the border to mile post 80," she says proudly of five-county stretch.

Equipped with this versatile degree, Mitchell weighed her many professional options within the area of law enforcement before acknowledging her desire to work on the highways. "I decided to be a patrol officer because I want to help people," she says. "I am doing my part to stop people from breaking the law and to keep our roads safe."

Warren's childhood dream not only came true for her, she broadened it to fulfill the aspirations for so many others who enroll in Kent State Stark, wanting to dedicate their lives to making the world a better and safer place to live. ❖

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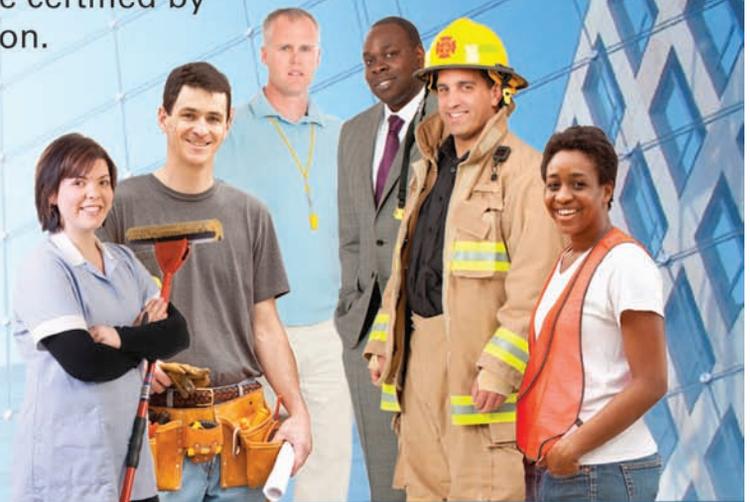
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The Massillon Community Garden Project

BY LISA BENTON

CITY OF MASSILLON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT SPECIAL EVENTS & MARKETING SUPERVISOR

The Massillon Community Garden Coalition is pleased to announce that we have obtained the use of several different parcels of land for the 2015 Massillon Community Garden Project. At this time, we are awaiting the announcement on the awarding of potential grants to assist in the implementation of this program. Our goal is to have a minimum of two gardens up and running in our community by the beginning of April. For a minimal fee, residents will be invited to rent plots of land in the gardens, where they can raise their own produce. We hope to offer training for participants, teaching them how to plant, raise, can, and cook the items they grow.

The Massillon Community Garden Coalition is made up of volunteers from the Master Gardeners of Stark County, the City of Massillon Health Department, the City of Massillon Parks and Recreation Department, The Ohio State University Extension Office, the Massillon Museum,



Walsh University, and Stark Parks. Watch for more information about this program early in 2015. ❖

“Side Lot Program” Enables Responsible Property Owners to Purchase Vacant (Tax Delinquent) Land for Only \$137

BY DAVID MALEY, CODE ENFORCEMENT

In May of 2014, the Stark County Regional Planning Commission began administering the “Side Lot Program” on behalf of the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation (SCLRC). This is a program through which vacant (tax delinquent) land is eligible to be purchased and transferred to qualified applicants. This program is an effort to bring non-productive property—throughout the county and the City of Massillon—back to productive use.

To be qualified for a side lot acquisition, applicants must meet the following criteria: (1) must own property physically contiguous to the requested land, (2) must be current on all property taxes, (3) must not

have any code violations, liens, assessments, etc. against any property that they own in Stark County. The process from start to finish usually takes about one year and costs the qualified applicant \$137.00 per lot. To date, 52 applications have been submitted to Regional Planning for City of Massillon properties. Of those applications, 37 have been approved, 10 denied, and five are still pending.

If you are interested in obtaining a side lot application, please go to: <http://www.starkcountyohio.gov/treasurer/resources/stark-county-land-reutilization-corporation-sclrc>. For additional information, contact Stark County Regional Planning at 330-451-7357. ❖

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- Maya Angelou

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Senior Center

Mad Hatter Daddy/Daughter Tea

February 6, 2015
The Legends

Chocolates & Wine

February 7, 2015
The Legends

American Red Cross Babysitter Training

February 7, 2015
Recreation Center

Mad Hatter Mommy & Me Tea

February 20, 2015
The Legends

St. Patrick's Day Open

March 13, 2015
The Legends

Adult Nighttime Easter Egg Hunt

March 20, 2015
The Legends

Egg & Candy Scramble

March 21, 2015
Community Park

Underwater Egg Hunt

March 28, 2015
Massillon Recreation Center

Parent/Child Bullying Seminar

April 11, 2015
Massillon Recreation Center

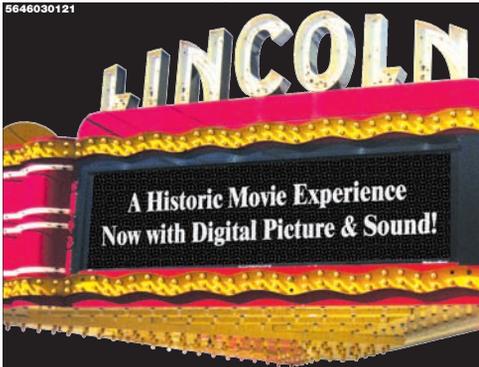
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STUFFED ZUCCHINI

RECIPE

Stuffed Zucchini Ingredients:

- Large zucchini
- 1 lb hamburger
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1 jar (32oz) spaghetti sauce
- A little garlic salt
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese

Submitted by
 anonymous

Cut zucchini lengthwise. Scoop out sides and put in a bowl then mash. Mix beef, bread crumbs, egg, sauce, garlic salt, and Parmesan together. Add zucchini seeds.

Place zucchini in 9 x 13 baking dish. Fill with stuffing. Drizzle a little sauce over it. Cover with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hr. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese before serving.



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Champions' Homecoming Weekend

BY MARGY VOGT

(LEFT to RIGHT): Bill Luke, Lee McBride, Steve Luke (The Lukes co-chaired the homecoming); Bob Graber of Massillon, the earliest player in attendance—played for Paul Brown! Coach Earle Bruce (speaker) with Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry; Coach Nick Vrotsos and Nick Pribich

Champions' Homecoming, during Massillon/McKinley rivalry weekend, warmed hearts as a time of reunion and reminiscing.

Bob Graber, who made Massillon his lifelong home, represented the earliest team in attendance; he played for Paul Brown in 1940. Brothers Steve and Billy Luke, who initiated the celebration, were among attendees who played on the 1970 championship squad. Champions traveled from as far as California and Florida, bringing stories and Tiger spirit with them. Guests Charlie Brown and Walt and Jim Houston were among the former Tigers who went on to play in the NFL.

Weekend activities kicked off with an open house at the Massillon Museum, where the exhibition, *Paul Brown: The Professional Years*, and the milk and cookies requested by committee member Billy Blunt were popular as former players renewed friendships. Museum Executive Director Alexandra Nicholis Coon served as the organizing hub of the entire Champions' Homecoming weekend.

During the evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at Eagles 190, players interviewed for an upcoming MCTV program and picked up their championship rings. Nick Vrotsos, an assistant Tiger football coach for 33 years may have been the proudest to slide the championship ring onto his finger. Coach Dale Walterhouse, a committee member, also reconnected with many former players throughout the weekend.

Saturday's schedule started with a private tour of the Pro Football Hall of Fame arranged by committee mem-

ber and HOF board member John Muhlback; transportation to the HOF was provided gratis by SARTA, and facilitated by committee member Ed Grier. The champions and their guests returned in time for the banquet, when 118 players, managers, and coaches representing 24 state and 9 national championship teams, received commemorative gifts; viewed a video, "Heart of a Tiger," by Tony Martin; and shook hands with speaker and former Tiger coach Earle Bruce. Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry pinned a City of Champions pin on each champion's collar.

Players attended the Beat McKinley Parade, where the Boys and Girls Club of Massillon and the Paul Marks family provided VIP bleachers for them. The rain drove most inside the Museum lobby, but their spirit was not drenched.

Champion Brock Herring, a committee member, facilitated a captains' breakfast at the Washington High School cafeteria preceding a tour of the indoor practice facility and special seating at the Massillon/McKinley game. Dozens of champions cheered the team as part of the human tunnel when the players ran onto the field.

Major sponsors of the Champions' Homecoming celebration were TerryBerry; Massillon Eagles Aerie #190; Massillon Washington High School Alumni Association; and Shearer's Foods, LLC.

Whether they stayed in Massillon or ventured throughout the country after their Tiger experience, the champions came together with a bond of camaraderie, an understanding of discipline and excellence, and a love of their hometown. ♦

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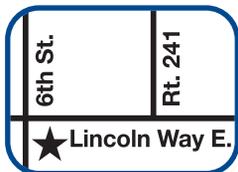
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Farewell: Best Wishes and Good Luck

This past year, 14 employees left the City's ranks for retirement or to pursue other endeavors. Those employees included: Gerald Harding (Building Maintenance), Forest Allen Jr. (Street Department), Sergeant Johnnie DiLoreto (Police Department), Cynde Reed (Income Tax), Detective Bobby Grizzard (Police Department), John Hauser (Safety Department), Captain David Conley (Fire Department), Assistant Chief Chris Bunnenberg (Fire Department), Richard Rohn (Parks and Recreation), Dawn Casten (Wastewater Treatment), Emily Barker (Community Development), Ted

Hercane (Community Development), Joe Berens (Street Department), and Ronald Ward (Street Department). All of these workers were not only valuable employees for the City but were also good friends to all of us. They will be missed both as colleagues and friends. We wish them all good health and good luck in their future endeavors, whether that's a new job or retirement. Regardless, they are all part of a fraternity of people who have done their best to make Massillon a better place, and because of that, we thank them for their service. ❖

Massillon WIC Cares for the Children of the Community

BY TERRI ARGENT
HEALTH COMMISSIONER



The Massillon Health Department WIC program ended the year on a positive note; the program finished 2014 at the highest caseload in three years at 885 participants.

The month of December was celebrated by offering each child seen throughout the month a “WIC the gift of good health” packet. In addition to their the benefits, each child received a small present from the staff containing a healthy foods coloring book, tips on healthy snacking, indoor activities, a toothbrush, and a book received from the First Books grant to encourage early reading.

This winter, with help from local churches, community agencies, and health department staff, WIC was

able to provide new hats, scarves, and gloves, as well as gently used coats and snowsuits, to those in need. A table was set up in the WIC waiting area for all clients to have the opportunity to participate in this program.

In 2015, the Massillon WIC office is looking forward to beginning its EBT (electronic benefits transfer) program. This will make shopping for WIC's supplemental foods easier for both WIC participants and local vendors. We will begin using bloodless hemoglobin testing which will make all participants happy, especially the children—no more finger sticks for blood draws! The office is also looking at the idea of walk-in clinics as a way to be more accessible to clients. ❖

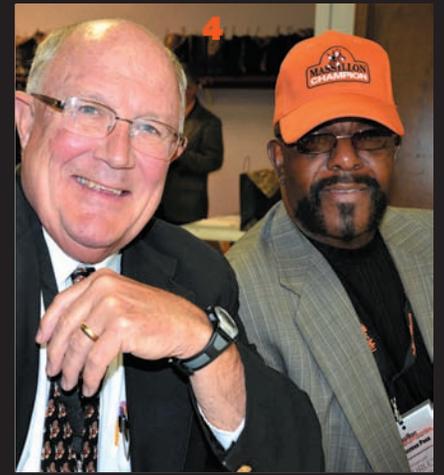


1 Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry with Andrew Oser owner of Gallery 121 at the Grand Opening

2 Franklin Elementary Pep Rally for Beat McKinley Week

3-6 Massillon Champions Homecoming

3 Tiger Champions' and NFL players Jim Houston (Cleveland Browns with brother, the late Lin Houston) and Walter Houston (Washington Redskins)



4 John Muhlbach and Emmanuel Turley

5 Billy Blunt (Massillon, committee and champion)

6 Tiger Champion and NFL player Charlie Brown with Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry

7-8 Pick a Pumpkin Event at Rec Center





10 Swim with Santa at Rec Center

11-13 VFW Post 3124 volunteers packing Christmas bags for veterans in nursing homes

14 Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry presenting Bob Harris a Proclamation for Toys for Tots

15 The City of Massillon's Christmas tree lighting ceremony

16 City of Massillon employees sponsor a family for Christmas

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