

JULY 9, 2020 • VOL. 1 NO. 1

# Medina weekly news

## Reopening *The Right Way*

How local restaurants  
are coming back from COVID-19

**Inaugural  
Edition!**

Benjamin Margalit

Restaurant owners share their unique and uncertain journeys on the path to welcoming back customers for onsite dining after being hit hard by the state's closure. At Corkscrew Saloon on Medina's west side (above), Chef/owner Ryan Marino is using every bit of patio and lawn space on the historic grounds to serve guests safely and comfortably. See page 4.

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**inside  
the news**

### 5 Race Talk

Local leaders actively  
discussing racial equity

### 5 Chippewa Lake

Former amusement park to  
become public parkland

### 5 Cooking With Karl

Food/restaurant columnist  
Karl Gerhard is back!



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FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

# Welcome

**W**elcome to the *Medina Weekly News*. We're new. And we thank you very much for reading these first few lines.

It takes curiosity—if not courage—to do what you have just done, to give something new a chance, to open the first page and arrive here on Page 2, the beginning of a new journey together.

Yes, we're a newspaper, but perhaps not a typical one. Our mantra is, "We highlight what makes Medina County a great place to live." Rather than conflict,

*Medina  
weekly  
news*

we'll focus on a different word: community—our neighbors, the people, culture, amenities and events that bind us,

our homes, schools, parks, restaurants, music, the arts, recreation, our health, and the local businesses, non-profits, and government institutions that serve us. As we say around the office, "Our readers already know when there's a pot hole. Let's tell them when it's getting filled."

We also plan to be forward thinking, emphasizing what's coming up rather than reporting only on what has already happened. This way you can better plan your week and participate more fully in all our community has to offer.

If you were born in Medina, congratulations; the stars shone brightly upon you. If you moved here, congratulations also; you—or the ones who brought you here—chose wisely.

When the rain falls, it does not fall on merely a single housetop. Such is the case with the novel coronavirus. It is affecting all of us deeply and, in too many cases, tragically. Some say it's risky to launch a print newspaper in the midst of pandemic, in the midst of a digital revolution, in the midst of a recession, in the midst of so much uncertainty.

They may be right.

Or perhaps uncertainty makes right now the perfect time. We don't know, but we're going to try. Medina deserves a newspaper, one free of the inflammatory rhetoric so common on Facebook, Twitter, and in the comment sections of online media.

Please let us know what you think. Let us know how you feel about the work we do. We're not a big media conglomerate (we have small offices in Medina, Wayne and Holmes counties), but what we lack in size we hope to make up for in heart and hard work. Tell us about your life in Medina, the places you love, the events you look forward to, the people you count on. We'll do everything we can to bring them to light. Send your story ideas to our editor, Kevin McManus: Kevin@MedinaWeeklyNews.com.

**"We also plan to  
be forward thinking,  
emphasizing what's  
coming up rather than  
reporting only on what  
has already happened."**


And there is something else you can do.

You may have noticed that this first edition arrived in your mailbox free of charge. That's because the expense of news gathering, reporting, photography, printing, shipping, mailing and keeping the lights on is being covered by thoughtful local business owners through paid advertising. It's a cliché, but please support the businesses you see advertising within these pages. Thriving local businesses are essential to a thriving community, and their success is essential to ours.

Thank you again for opening the cover of this inaugural edition of the *Medina Weekly News* and for making it here to Page 2. Although we don't know what tomorrow will bring, we know it will be a better day when we face it together...as a community.


*The Editorial Board*

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# Coming back from COVID

By Kevin McManus

March 15, 2020 is a date likely to live in infamy for Ohio's food service industry. Nothing about the business has been the same since.

For now, COVID-19's assault on the general population is not subsidizing – even here in Medina County, where, despite its citizens having been successful initially in slowing the local spread, county health officials reported a 189.5 percent spike in positive cases (43) heading into Fourth of July weekend.

But more information in the defense against the virus exists now than in mid-March. The proven effects of measures like social distancing, continual sanitizing and wearing facemasks has reallocated onsite dining at food and drink establishments by the state since mid-May – if enforceable guidelines are followed. Mounting statewide, though, is the number of establishments which have ignored mandated practices, resulting in the harsh repercussion of shuttering yet again.

Those doing their part – and then some – to protect customers and staffs are the ones making it through. It has been quite the journey, each unique and loaded with uncertainty, since Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's administration dropped the inevitable and necessary bomb on March 15 by closing restaurants and bars for a then-undetermined amount of time.

## Restaurants were made for this

The doors leading inside the mid-1800s Victorian mansion now occupied by Corkscrew Saloon on West Liberty Street in Medina are not yet open to customers. The extensive patio and carefully landscaped backyard, however, are a different story.

An agreeable day weather-wise now means a good day of business – as good as it can be given the circumstances – for Chef/owner Ryan Marino. He and his staff are currently seating tables seven feet apart, wherever they can outside.

Marino, now in his 12<sup>th</sup> year operating in what used to be the historic Burnham House, takes a seat inside one of the house's many empty rooms

where customers used to dine and where he has decided to launch a large-scale interior remodel, a silver lining of sorts to the state-mandated closures.

"We just went into survival mode," Marino said. "Is it the best situation? No, but if you like fine, al fresco dining, it's the best spot to be. Unfortunately, that's not going to please everybody ... It's hard, but at the end of the day, it's not about one person, it's about everyone."

Corkscrew, like many others, flipped the switch to takeout immediately when the closure took effect and even added phone lines to handle as many orders possible. Delivery is a new service now offered by Corkscrew and Marino is leasing a gas-saving Buick Encore from Medina Auto Mall for the drop-offs.

**“I never felt alone in it because all of our colleagues are going through the same thing.”**

*Audrey Pollizi*

In the kitchen, sanitizer pumps are everywhere and disposable glassware (in addition to traditional china) are being deployed. Marino is constantly preaching clean practices to his staff, 90 percent of which has returned on a rotating basis.

"Restaurants were made for this; we're sanitation freaks," he said. "We already had the training, but it's not like we were ready for COVID. My head is still spinning."

## We just never stopped

Lynn Zarcone removed his black cloth facemask as he sat down at the bar sectioned off with plexiglass partitions inside the rustic Timber Lodge on Pearl Road in Medina Township. Seeing a bit of humor in his industry's situation, he pointed out the numerous trophy fish, ranging from bass to walleye, adorning his establishment's cabin-like walls. Like his staff, they're all protected.

"I even have the animals wearing masks," he said.

Zarcone has owned Timber Lodge, his first foray in the service industry, for a little more than year. He previously worked for a number of large publicly traded companies and says it's his background in corporate America that kept Timber Lodge running throughout the closures and beyond.

"We just never stopped," he added

with a great deal of pride.

"It really started before the governor closed down the restaurants and I started to see things slow down. We were, and still are, feverishly cleaning everything."

Instead of taking time to regroup, Zarcone ramped up takeout and delivery – for the latter, he employed a local entrepreneur from Brunswick – both of which are areas of the business he said were previously lacking. Online ordering was a new addition, as well.

"It just grew and grew," he said, adding to-go alcohol sales have been huge, thanks to the state's approval. "You just had to change your model quickly."

Now that the inside of the restaurant is open and steady, Zarcone is working to add even more outdoor seating behind the building, in addition to Timber Lodge's long front porch where guests are being seated for the first time.

"I'm a lifelong learner and I learn something every day in this business," he said.

## It's business as usual now

Even for a 30,000-square-foot complex boasting four separate types of hospitality venues, The Galaxy in Wadsworth was hit hard by the COVID closure's uncertainties.

Owner Robin Wenger and General Manager Dave Schauble – gathered in The Galaxy's modern corridor adjoining the Circle L Steakhouse, Wine Room, Sports Bar and Banquet Center ahead of their monthly managers meeting – still project a level of cautiousness, despite being up and running again, especially for socially distanced patio dining.

"We were devastated," Wenger said. "It was the unknown. We had to lay off just about everybody (at first) ... we're back at 60 percent staff now."

Schauble said it's his responsibility to make sure every employee's temperature is taken ahead of shifts, ensure staff wear masks, constantly sanitize, oversee the in-house construction of plexiglass partitions and make sure no customers share the same salt and pepper shakers, condiments or pens.

"We have to make sure everyone is healthy and safe, so in the big picture, it's not that much extra work. It's worth it," he said. "It's business as usual now."

Like the rest, takeout and delivery services were ramped up tenfold and they ended up finding a niche in offering family-style, comfort-food meals – like roast beef, pot roast and turkey – complete in big, foil pans.

And with a nationwide shortage of



Photos by Kevin McManus  
Rachel Grenley, bartender at The Galaxy in Wadsworth, preps for specialty cocktails ahead of opening for business July 1.

beef, The Galaxy is set up to handle it better than most since it raises cattle at a ranch in Burbank. The Galaxy sells its beef retail in the lobby. Wenger said it's been a huge hit.

## You've gotta hang on to hope

Johnny and Audrey Pollizi, owners of Pickle Mama's Market & Eatery on Wooster Pike Road in Montville Township, were "rocking" for four months after their grand opening. Then COVID-19 came. Both lifetime service industry veterans, the Pollizis saw their dream come to a screeching halt when the closures hit.

Seated on the same side of a table on their expansive patio – which eventually will be dog-friendly – and finishing each other's sentences, they started their story at the very beginning.

"Audrey and I met here 20-odd years ago," Johnny said of the establishment when it was under previous ownership, noting the name Pickle Mama's honors a former family dog, Pickles, about which their oldest daughter used to make up jingles.

Added Audrey: "We've both grown up in this industry. It's all we've ever done since we were teenagers, and now we're in our mid-50s."

The hardest part was letting go of employees, while a skeleton crew of family members switched to carryout mode to keep the fledgling business afloat. One-third of the crew has since returned as Pickle Mama's resumed dine-in and bar services, as well as its deli-style market area.

"We're a new business," Audrey said. "We're infants in this. How do we play this game when the rules are changing every 2 o'clock (press briefing) with DeWine?"

Added Johnny: "We were way beyond taking precautions and I think that made a lot of people feel safe. The distancing is the big thing and that's the best we can do."

Faced with any number of possibilities brought on by the pandemic, the Pollizis remain at peace with the situation and worry more about the industry as a whole.

"I never felt alone in it because all of our colleagues are going through the same thing," Audrey said. "The hard part for me was wondering what was going to happen to our industry. It was so beyond (us) ... You've got to hang on to hope. That's all we have in life is hope, right? And faith, absolutely."



Johnny and Audrey Pollizi, owners of Pickle Mama's Market & Eatery, were only open four months before COVID-19 came and the state closed down bars and restaurants.



The to-go sale of alcohol is a whole new ballgame for Ohio's food service industry.



From the Health Commissioner

# County COVID-19 cases spike to close June

Over the last several weeks, Medina County has reported consistently low numbers, even some stretches of days with zero reported cases. This past week was a different story.

We've reported a spike of 43 positive cases between June 22-29. That is a 189.5 percent increase compared to the previous seven days. This is a significant jump, but what's more concerning is where the cases are coming from.

Medina has done a really good job from the beginning to slow the spread of coronavirus. Protective actions were taken seriously and the spread throughout the community was pretty slow compared to other areas. But the rise in cases is telling us that community spread has started to pick back up.

The Health Center at the Health Department began pop-up testing two weeks ago. Out of 74 people tested, three were reported positive, although about six test results are still pending. The Ohio National Guard just completed testing of staff members in four Medina County nursing homes. There were no posi-

tive Medina County cases. The 43 positive cases over the last week were sick individuals from various parts of our community. Of these new cases, the average age is 40.

We have a team doing contact notification, and thanks to their quick action and the cooperativeness of our community members, we've been able to quickly determine where the illness may have come from to prevent those individuals from spreading it to others. We are working around the clock to stay ahead of this spike so we don't have an explosion of cases as we are seeing in other states.

I know we are all tired of coronavirus and anxious for this to be over. But we have to continue to take the virus seriously. The current mass gathering order is still limited to 10 people. Given the trajectory of the numbers we are seeing, the governor will likely extend this order for the time being. These orders are in place not to impede on your family fun, but instead to protect your family.

It's been a long few months and our community has worked so hard to get as

close to normal as we can. Let's keep moving forward.

If you're sick or think you have been exposed to someone who is sick, call our health center at 330-723-9688, option 1, or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for future pop-up testing dates throughout the summer.

Medinahealth.org or

**"We have to continue to take the virus seriously."**

Coronavirus.ohio.gov have the latest real-time information. You can find health and safety messages and information you can use to help make decisions that are best for you and your family. Every Friday, we

update the data dashboard on our website to provide the most up-to-date insights on COVID-19. You can find that information at [www.medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/data/](http://www.medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/data/).



Krista Wasowski

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From the Editor

# Guess who's buzzing around town again ...

For those playing along at home, if you guessed any combination of "that shaggy-lookin', bearded and tattooed Medina newspaper dude," our judges will accept.

I told you I'd be back! OK ... maybe it's not "next week" like I promised when I was last in print. Things got a bit heavy for us all since mid-March.

A lot of you probably recognize the name and this ol' mug – albeit, a bit more weathered since my last headshot – and it is my privilege to be back in your home every week (just in print, don't worry).

However, thanks to our belief in the importance

of reaching every mailbox every week, it's likely I am meeting even more of you for the first time, so please allow me to introduce myself.

Through and through, I'm a Medina guy. I was born in the city and raised in the township. I'm a proud alum of Medina High, where I was a solid C student and frequent parking lot congregator. Medina is where I have spent most of my life and the entirety of my news career. I care about this town and I'm committed to serving those who call it home.

Outside of work, I enjoy bass fishing in local waters and bass playing (the guitar, not the fish) in rock 'n' roll bands. I've been fortunate to have cut records and performed throughout the U.S. for a buck or two my entire adult life. Before that, it was the S.P.I.C.E. talent shows

and the Medina Rock Fest (R.I.P.).

I'm so Medina that I've even jammed with the legendary Stylee Wild in front of a capacity crowd at Cin Dee's. Old-school Medina rockers know what I'm talking about.



**KEVIN  
McMANUS**  
Editor

For the better part of a decade with *The Post Newspapers*, my job was keeping you informed on what's going in our community through the medium of print, the vitality of which I have always believed in and always will. I'm humbled I get to continue that work under a brand-new flag we call

the *Medina Weekly News*.

Thank you, from the whole team, for letting us into your home. I think you will enjoy our evolution.

So, what was I up to during my hiatus? It got a little dark, honestly.

Like many of you, I found myself out of work and my dance card erased in the blink of an eye. I was utterly depressed. Some days, I couldn't even get out of bed. Others, I would get in my car and just drive until I hit a state line. Often, I wanted nothing to do with the outside world, so I kept my phone turned off.

My sleep schedule went to the curb, but Christine didn't care much for me rearranging the living room at 4 a.m., so I got back on track. The alternative would have been exile to the shed with the squatting, garden-eating

groundhog she has sarcastically dubbed "Buddy."

And my appearance? Forget about it. You know the GEICO Cavemen, right? I swear, they could've cast me as a replacement without missing a beat – and believe me, I would've jumped at the gig.

So, when the brain trust behind the *Medina Weekly News* called – luckily my phone was on – I was intrigued, but I wasn't sold on spending my next chapter as the editor of yet another Medina newspaper. First thought was, "Been there, done that."

Second thought was, "Wow, what a bold move starting a paper *now*." Very bold, which I can appreciate, and as I thought it over, I slowly realized there will never be a more suitable time than right now.

With some familiar faces to boot – like my buddy Karl Gerhard, *Weekly News* senior marketing consultant, with whom I have the pleasure of working once again – I may never have another opportunity to help build a publication from the ground up, doubly so in my hometown.

My third thought was, "My work here isn't done yet." And that was all I needed to hear myself say. Medina needs a free, quality, print newspaper. The more the brain trust and I chatted, the more I realized this was a good fit. A little kindness and intelligence go a long way with me – and these folks happen to have a ton of both.

We saw a void, and we are filling it. We felt the need for community, and we are doing

our part to be good neighbors. We all know that old, played-out idiom: "There's no time like the present." I, instead, prefer the hook to one of my favorite tunes by Foo Fighters: "It's times like these you learn to live again."

You know when you're just called to do something? It's difficult to put into words. As much as I believed when I

was 18 that I would surely be writing for *Rolling Stone* by my 30s, I guess I never did get around to sending my resumé. Funny how life works like that.

That's because my work here isn't done – and it's time to get back to work again. It's time to return to what I have been called to do in this life. I could not, in good

conscience, walk away from that ever-elusive second act so few of us get in life. Without a doubt, I'm one of those lucky few.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you and will gladly accept news tips at [Kevin@MedinaWeeklyNews.com](mailto:Kevin@MedinaWeeklyNews.com). Make it a great week, Medina ... It's an honor to be back home.




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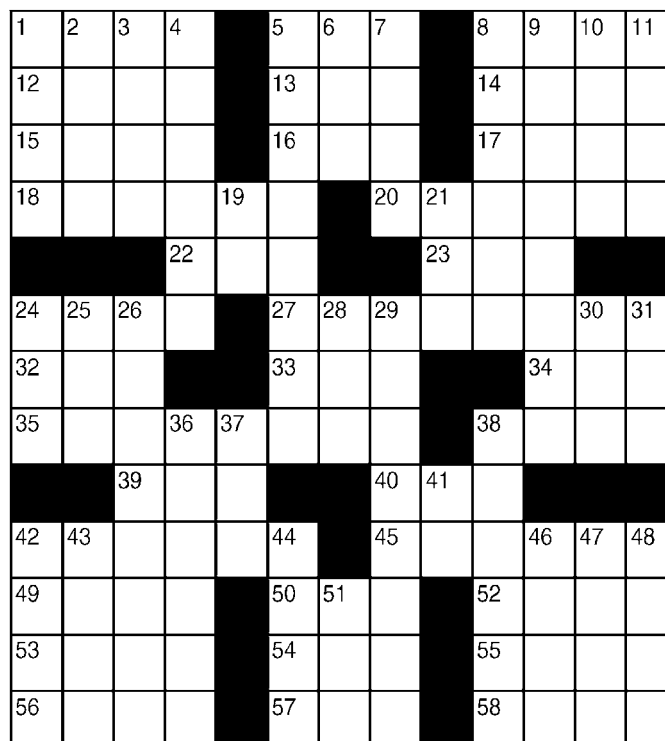
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## - WEEKLY CROSSWORD -

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- 48 NASCAR circuits
- 51 Teensy

Solution on 13

## Weymouth Road closure between Union, Friendship likely to stretch into August

The closure of Weymouth Road (state Route 3) will last until late August, the city of Medina says.

The impacted area is Weymouth Road between East Union and East Friendship streets.

The Ohio Department of Transportation is currently removing and replacing a road culvert.

The closure began June 22 and was estimated to last approximately 60 days.

There is no through

vehicle or pedestrian traffic permitted during the closure; however, access to adjacent properties is being maintained.

Vehicles and pedestrians can use Spring Grove and East Union streets as alternative routes.



# Local leaders actively discussing racial equity

By Kevin McManus

In a city that is 94 percent white, stakeholders and elected officials are taking steps to address systemic racism. The question for some, though, is “are we taking enough steps?”

“It’s important to acknowledge,” said City Council President John Coyne, who raised the question last month when Medina’s legislative body met in finance committee.

Although council in 2015 passed a resolution relative to raising awareness and effort toward hiring more minorities to city positions, officials are considering updating the language and potentially implementing anti-bias and sensitivity training for city employees.

It is a discussion likely to be steered by At-Large Councilman Bill Lamb, who chairs council’s special legislation committee, the committee which, last year, advanced LGBTQ protection ordinances for eventual council passage, making Medina City Council the 25th governing body in Ohio to do so.

“There has only been one person of color on city council in 200 years,” Lamb said of the late Wilda Bell

Howard. “There has only been 12 women, in 200 years, on city council.”

One of those women, Pam Miller, who currently heads the grassroots Medina Diversity Project, spoke before council to encourage the passage of a resolution “declaring racism a public health issue.” Miller also sparked the conversations leading to the 2015 resolution.

“Systemic racism is something that affects people of color in all aspects of their lives ... from education to housing to job opportunities to fear of police violence,” Miller said. “People say, ‘Why should we be concerned? We don’t have these big problems in Medina.’ But the better question is why wouldn’t Medina, as the county seat, want to be a leader, by saying we won’t tolerate racism and disparities in our community?”

The murder in late-May of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police officer sparked outrage nationwide, including five peaceful demonstrations over three days in early June on Medina’s Public Square. Police reported no issues.

One of the demonstrations’ organizers, Pastor Arthur A. Ruffin Sr., of Second Baptist Church on the city’s near northwest

side, has been among those leading the charge when it comes to tackling racial disparities here. He is working with local clergy, as well as Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell and Police Chief Ed Kinney.

That trio – along with Ashley Powell, vice president of Medina-based nonprofit Sister Circle, and Rev. Michael Wilson, of Fellowship Baptist Church on West Liberty Street – recently held a virtual panel discussion live on Medina TV’s Facebook page to discuss local racial issues, as well as gain an understanding from Kinney about his department’s procedures.

City officials said they hope to make panel discussions on race a regular occurrence. Viewers on Facebook were encouraged to join in by commenting.

“We want to talk about the things going in our world today, not just in Medina,” Ruffin said. “We’ve come today to clarify that there are good policemen ... but in anything we do, there is always a bad apple and we need to weed out that bad apple.”

The latest panel discussion can be viewed in full by visiting Medina TV on Facebook.



Photo courtesy of Second Baptist Church

Pictured in June, Pastor Arthur A. Ruffin (right), of Second Baptist Church, speaks from the gazebo in Medina’s Public Square during a demonstration in response to the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis Police officer. His wife, Tracey Ruffin, founder of nonprofit Sister Circle, cheers him on.

## Fair vendors won’t sell, display Confederate flags

Following weeks of protest and campaigning on social media, the Medina County Agricultural Society reported its vendors have voluntarily agreed not to sell or display Confederate flags at this year’s Medina County Fair Aug. 3-9.

Late last month, the society’s board of directors discussed the display

and sales of the flag by vendors during a special planning meeting.

Board president Chuck Stiver said legal counsel was sought to provide an opinion on the matter, adding that, because agricultural societies are political subdivisions, a proposed ban of the flags “is subject to Constitutional challenges.”

A motion for a ban was not introduced by the board.

However, Stiver said the chairperson of the outside concessions committee spoke with vendors, and they agreed not to sell or display the flags.

“The board is sensitive to issues related to the confederate flag,” Stiver said.

## Can they use it?

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## Cooking with Karl

## Smokin' SoCal-style tri-tip beef

"The times, they are a-changin'!" Bob Dylan sang it back in 1964 when he wrote this everlasting tune. A simple matter of truth, it was sung with such poetic grace that it became an anthem of sorts.

We are clearly in changing times, especially when it comes to our food choices — where we buy our food, where the food ultimately was produced, and just how it was produced. I have been singing the praises of local farmers and why you should buy your food from them for years.

Yes, I, too, shop at supermarkets for convenience and buy local when the opportunity presents itself. Now, I force the opportunity more often, buying meat from a local butcher and summer produce from local farmers markets.

Recently, there's been lots of talk about meat shortages due to the COVID-19 situation, and some major plants shutting down to curtail the spread. No problem here in Northeast Ohio, as we are blessed with many local farms that have all the meat, dairy, and produce we desire.

Honestly, the quality tends to be better, the source is known, and they take great pride in their products because their name is on it and it serves members of their own community, their family and friends. It is sad that it took a pandemic to bring them the demand they

have always deserved, but I am pleased that one huge positive coming out of this will be a greater recognition of the gift local farmers are to our lives and how important it is that we support them.

I am still driven by convenience. However, I am very fortunate that Keller Meats at The Exchange Market in Medina is just a few miles from my home. I bought most of my meat there throughout the stay-at-home period and continue the practice now that we are opening up. The quality is high, the price is similar to the big box stores, and all of the meat is local.



**KARL GERHARD**  
Weekly News  
Food Guru

The bonus for me is they often have tri-tip, a cut of beef very popular in California and harder to find as you head east. Tri-tip is a crescent-shaped cut located at the bottom of the sirloin, typically cut into beef stew cubes or ground into hamburger. There are only two of these cuts per cow. It can be a tough cut, like brisket, unless cooked properly.

The taste is beefy like sirloin, and it is typically sliced against the grain like a brisket. It is very economical and comes in 1.5- to 3-pound sizes, perfect for a family of four like mine. It's sometimes called the "poor man's prime rib."

I suggest seasoning tri-tip with kosher or sea salt, freshly-ground black pepper, and garlic powder. Grill it low and slow for an hour at 225 degrees



Photo by Karl Gerhard

**Karl recommends using oak when smoking this tri-tip beef.**

with indirect heat until the meat reaches 110 degrees. Then, finish it like a steak on the grill over direct flame for a few minutes a side until the internal temperature reaches 135 degrees. Let rest for 5 minutes for the juices to absorb back into the meat, then slice thin, against the grain. Use oak as the fuel of choice for smoking this cut of meat.

You can make your tri-tip even better by diving headfirst into the Southern Cali origins of this cut of meat. Roast it over a red oak fire on an Argentinean style grill after marinating it in a Cardiff Crack type marinade. To do this, mix ½ cup burgundy or dry red wine, ¼ cup olive oil, 3 cloves or more of minced garlic, 1 tsp. honey, and a few tbsp. fresh ground black pepper. Add this marinade to a gallon Ziploc bag, add the meat, squeeze out all air before final zip, and allow it to marinade overnight.

Try some tri-tip out and enjoy it this weekend — you'll be glad you did. But please, save some me!

## Medina area events postings

**2020 Summer Reading Game: Imagine Your Story**  
Medina County District Library's Summer Reading Game "Imagine Your Story" will run through Aug. 31. Teen game, for students entering grades 6-12 in the fall: read for 20 hours over the course of the summer (that's less than 20 minutes a day) for a chance to win one of eight grand prizes. Prizes include: a Fuji Instax Mini 9 camera, room decor package, self-care bundle, art bundle, and more. Grand prizes awarded the week of Sept. 7. The Children's Game is for children birth through entering grade 5 in the fall. Download and save or print the game board at [mcdl.info/SummerReading](http://mcdl.info/SummerReading) or create your own to play. Log your reading for 30 days to win an awesome prize. Prizes awarded Sept. 1 through Nov. 30. Register at [mcdl.info/SummerReading](http://mcdl.info/SummerReading) or contact your local MCDL location for more information.

### Medina Community Band: Virtual Summer Concert Season

Medina Community Band presents its first-ever virtual Summer Band Concert season, a celebration of 161 years (since 1859) of presenting community concerts in Medina. These virtual concerts will be released throughout June and July at [medinacommunityband.org](http://medinacommunityband.org) and can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere, and from a safe social distance. The concerts will be built from YouTube videos, adding program notes and pictures that would have been used as part of narrations. Complete information on each concert, literature performed, soloists, and guest conductors, as well as personnel for each concert can all be found on the website. For additional information, contact Marcus Neiman, Conductor, at 330-725-8198 or [MarcusNeiman@medinacommunityband.org](mailto:MarcusNeiman@medinacommunityband.org).

### Children's Center of Medina County: Virtual Walk Challenge

Abuse has not stopped even though it seems that the world has stopped. Now, more than ever, children in our community need us to step up and be their hero. The community is being challenged to raise awareness for ending all forms of abuse by walking one mile between now and Aug. 30. Once you have completed the walk, donate to one of the organizations in Medina County working with survivors of abuse and pass the challenge on to one or more of your friends. The community's support is essential for children who experience abuse and to ensure The Children's Center of Medina County can continue to provide vital programming that heals families and changes lives. For details, visit [Facebook.com/TheChildrensCenterofMedinaCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TheChildrensCenterofMedinaCounty). Call 330-764-8891 for additional information.

### Spanish-speaking group meets second Fridays

Join in for conversation in Spanish every second Friday of the month at noon at Fiesta Jalapenos Mexican Grill, 4136 Pearl Road, Medina. La charla is a growing group of travelers, students, teachers and businessmen/women meeting to practice speaking Spanish, at all levels in a casual environment. There is no cost, no stress and no commitment, but teachers and native speakers will be available to answer questions and help those learning Spanish along their journey. For more information, contact [lacharlamedina@gmail.com](mailto:lacharlamedina@gmail.com) or 440-628-9756.

### Open Spaces jazz trio to livestream

Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach (ORMACO) continues its summer Jazz Under the Stars concert series with the Akron-based ensemble Open Spaces Trio. It will be

streamed live Saturday, July 11, at 7 p.m. The ensemble takes songs you may have forgotten about and reinvents them into creative, dynamic experiences. Drawing from a diverse repertoire of jazz, Americana, rock folk and other genres, the trio loves to explore taking what's familiar and expanding it. Brent Hamker's vibrant guitar solos, Matthew DeRupert's growing, atmospheric bass sounds and Holbrook Riles III's masterful drumming craft whatever song they've chosen to play into a sonic journey. To stream this event live, visit [ww.facebook.com/ORMACO.Inc](https://www.facebook.com/ORMACO.Inc). ORMACO's mission is to make music, arts, and culture accessible to all, with a focus on underserved, disadvantaged and rural populations. Call 330-722-2541 for more info.

### Brunswick Farmers Market running every Sunday

The Brunswick Farmers Market will be held every Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Oct. 4., at Heritage Farm, 4613 Laurel Road. Local growers and crafters, free parking, free admission and tours of the historic farmhouse as well. Everyone who attends — vendors and visitors — must wear a face covering (mask or scarf). No food will be prepared on-site, but bakers and makers are welcome as long as they have followed health department rules. While the Historical Society won't be making hotdogs or popcorn onsite, it will have bottled beverages for sale. Musician Ken Uram and other solo musicians are scheduled to return, as the barn will allow for proper social distancing. Call 330-441-0292 or email [brunswickareahistory@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickareahistory@gmail.com) for information. The market is subject to change based on prevailing state and local rules and guidelines. Visit [brunswick-history.com](https://www.brunswick-history.com) for the latest information.

What's going on? Send your events to [Kevin@MedinaWeeklyNews.com](mailto:Kevin@MedinaWeeklyNews.com)

## With safety guidelines in place, Farmers Market running every Saturday

Delayed a month due to COVID-19, the annual Medina Farmers Market is still going strong with dozens of participating vendors every Saturday on Public Square.

Traditionally, the season runs from about Memorial Day until mid-October and this year is slated to close Oct. 17. The market is open first for seniors (59 and older)

and at-risk citizens 8-9 a.m. The rest of the general public is asked to attend starting at 9 a.m. until the day closes at about 1 p.m. In the case of inclement weather, the market is moved to Broadway Street on the square's east side in front of the Medina County Courthouse.

A complete list of vendors can be viewed at [\[nafarmersmarket.com\]\(http://nafarmersmarket.com\).](http://www.medi-</a></p>
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Temperatures are being taken from all Medina Farmers Market employees, volunteers and vendors prior to the start of each market. All employees, volunteers and vendors are also required to wear masks at all times and sanitize their hands and surfaces between customers. Vendors are also expected

to provide new plastic shopping bags for each customer since reusable bags are not permitted.

Customers are asked to stay home if they have a fever or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory distress. They are also asked to come to the market with only one other person from their household and wear masks.



Photo courtesy of Main Street Medina

The Medina Farmers Market is running every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Public Square in Medina. The hour of 8-9 a.m. is reserved for senior and at-risk customers.



# Former amusement park to receive new life as public parkland

By Kevin McManus

Closed since the Carter Administration, the former Chippewa Lake Amusement Park off of Lake Road was the local hub for all things summertime fun and entertainment for 100 years.

Nowadays, its fenced-in, broken-down buildings and skeletons of rides are more reminiscent of an overgrown theme park graveyard, and serve as an occasional attraction for would-be supernatural enthusiasts, indie film crews and curious teenage trespassers.

Lifetime Village of Chippewa Lake resident and historian Gayle Foster — who co-authored the 2017 chronicling “Images of America: Chippewa Lake” — has countless fond park memories from her youth.

“The first famous person I ever saw in concert (there) was Pat Boone,” Foster recalled, adding her now-husband, “Ol” Bill Foster, grew up in the Fenn

House a short walk away. “My brother had seen Neil Diamond there before he was ever Neil Diamond ... There was an outdoor theater along the lake. They’d pack in thousands.”

Those days long gone, Foster, along with her cohorts in the Chippewa Lake Historical Society, was delighted to learn the Medina County Park District officially purchased the 95-acre site from Chippewa Lake Properties Inc. for \$2.1 million, less than its appraised value.

“I’m beside myself. It’s so exciting,” Foster said. “My being on the Historical Society, we’re working hand in hand with the county parks. They want to pick our brains on the historic aspects.”

Park District Spokeswoman Jill Teubl called the acquisition “a journey that began more than 40 years ago,” with talks dating back to shortly after its 1978 closure.



Photo by Kevin McManus

The former Chippewa Lake Amusement Park (1878-1978) on the east side of the lake is now a fenced-in, overgrown memory of days of old. Several winding, walkable paths still exist throughout the site, marking what used to be the midway, and within the trees surrounding stand several skeletons of theme park rides, like this roller coaster pictured.

The purchase agreement includes all mineral rights and lake privileges associated with the property, and will allow for the reopening of the east side of the lake — Ohio’s largest inland glacial body of water — to the general public.

The Park District previ-

ously purchased the 340-acre Chippewa Lake with a Clean Ohio Grant back in 2007.

The water has always been popular for water skiers, recreational boaters and anglers, and is, of course, the crown jewel for the tight-knit com-

munities that call the lake home. Every January for the past 10 years, the village’s Lions Club has hosted the Polar Bear Plunge, which sees hordes of brave, costumed souls jumping into the lake’s icy depths in the name of charity.

“We are thrilled that this special place, which is such an important part of the cultural history of Northeast Ohio and treasured in the memories of so many people, will be open for the public to enjoy once again,” Medina County Park District Director Nathan D. Eppink said in a statement.

Mayor of Chippewa Lake since 2003, Joanne Dodaro said “it’s good for our village,” adding, “I like knowing that the amusement park property is owned by the Park District and that it will help protect the lake.”

Remnants of the Ferris wheel and other relics will be preserved, county

officials say, and added will be interpretive panels and programs celebrating “the site’s iconic past,” a site reportedly identified in the early 1970s as “one of the most important potential public recreation sites in Medina County.”

Anchored by its rides, games and hotel, live entertainment was arguably the most important aspect of Chippewa Lake Amusement Park. The Park District noted the appearances of Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Lawrence Welk and others.

For past Park District Director Thomas K. James, reopening the site to the public was one of his biggest goals since taking the post in 1993 until his retirement in 2018.

“It’s been on the radar for a long time,” James said. “Having a park on the east side of the lake with good access to the water for public recreation makes the most sense.”

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Savage Sounds

The 330 is a treasure trove of musical culture

In September 2015, I moved to the Akron area. After 10 years in Charlottesville, Va. (home of UVA, Monticello and Dave Matthews Band), I had been hired to serve as program director at WAPS-FM (91.3 The Summit) in Akron.

I was replacing 30-year Program Director Bill Gruber, who was retiring and had worked his entire career at the station. That's virtually unheard of in the radio industry, and I was ready for the relative stability the position offered in such a volatile industry. I was also very excited for the creative freedom and blank canvas of a public, independent, noncommercial



BRAD SAVAGE  
Program Director, 91.3 The Summit  
FM WAPS  
Akron/Canton

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Public radio music stations can play a much wider variety of music, from many genres and eras, because they aren't focused on tight playlists to attract general numbers of audience. In other words, we can serve music lovers and take more risks. We can play local music, emerging artists, deeper tracks.

Eventually, my family settled in Wadsworth, and we've been here almost five years now. I had grown up in the Twin Cities and lived in college towns like Columbia, Mo.; Madison, Wis.; Ann Arbor, Mich.; and Charlottesville.

I got a lot of "where's that?" when mentioning my pending move to Akron, but I knew Akron has a great musical history. That is part of what made me feel confident in making the move. I knew Devo, Pretenders, Joseph Arthur, even Jessica Lea Mayfield, and, of course, Cleveland's marquee name The Michael Stanley Band.

But I was not aware of the rich history of the "Akron Sound," the prominent punk years and the D.I.Y. ethic of bands like Tin Huey, Chi Pig, Rubber City Rebels, Teacher's Pet, The Bizarros and so many more. I did my musical homework to discover the rich heritage of artists like The Outsiders, Boz Scaggs, The Dead Boys, Macy Gray, Pere Ubu, The Waitresses, and many more. If you dig back even further, you find success stories like Vaughn Monroe and Ruby & The Romantics.

And let's not forget Youngstown. The Summit is

also heard in Youngstown (via 90.7 FM WKTL) and there is a fantastic music community in Y-Town led by The Vindys, Demos Papadimas, JD Eicher and more. Youngstown's history is proud with artists like The Human Beinz, Kool & The Gang and Glass Harp among others who have been impactful on a national level.

The point is this: we are fortunate to live in such a musically-cultured place. There are at least 60-70 active, current bands playing in our area (at least, they're playing when we're not in the midst of a global pandemic). Every genre you can imagine is represented.

There's a strong D.I.Y. scene and smart people writing songs, recording music, and contributing to the arts. I believe that arts, music, and culture make an area a better place to live. In the tech-driven, interconnected world of 2020, one can choose to live anywhere. We've learned



Photo courtesy of 91.3 The Summit

It was the radio industry's volatility that brought Brad Savage to Northeast Ohio, a region he says is rich with musical culture and history. Savage, program director at 91.3 The Summit, and his family live in Wadsworth.

that "WFH" (work from home) is a viable option. So, if you can go anywhere, you may as well be in a place that offers strong entertainment and cultural amenities. I think Northeast Ohio is quickly ascending the list of "buzz" regions and I am happy to be a part of it.

In this column, we'll cover The Akron Sound, hometown bands, music events and more. I am proud to be on board with Medina Weekly News!

- WEEKLY CROSSWORD -  
ANSWERS

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## The Garden Gate

# Plants, flowers are guests and we must be good hosts

Hello and welcome to the inaugural column of The Garden Gate. Please stroll right in. I'm Stuart Neal, a retired, gray-haired Baby Boomer with a fire-in-the-belly passion for people, plants, vegetable gardens, flowers, landscapes, wildlife, and, most importantly, Mother Earth.

Our garden column is just the proverbial wheelbarrow. While I shovel the well-aged manure and compost, it's up to you, dear readers, to supply the muscle that will make the wheelbarrow roll.

As I see it, this column is about you, for you, and because of you. You will set the tone with your ideas, your garden achievements (even your mishaps), your neighborhood bragging rights, your questions, and your concerns. We will realize, discover and learn all of this through our humble and common, yet powerful and health-giving, gardens. Yin and yang.

Consider this: our plants and flowers are invited guests into our home and yard. As a proper host to your living, breathing guests, it is incumbent upon us to treat them with respect – 5-star lodgings (good soil); fresh air and

sun; good food (think compost); plenty of water. Satisfy these basic principles of horticulture hospitality, while combined with our plants' basic DNA to grow, flower and produce (make you happy), then your labor and commitment will be richly rewarded.



**STUART NEAL**  
Medina County Fair Director and Gardening Enthusiast

So, you say you don't have a "green thumb" and your garden is nothing but weeds? Well, with all due respect, I disagree with you. Everybody is blessed with a "green thumb." It may be that you just haven't found the right niche or plants which fit you. And those weeds? They tell me your garden soil is rich and fertile. If weeds can thrive, so can our plants. Weeds are not a problem;

we'll deal with easy methods of weed control in future columns.

Our gardens and farms stretch back to time immemorial and are responsible for bringing the "civil" to civilization. And in these unprecedented, topsy-turvy, historic times we currently find ourselves in, there sit our humble gardens whispering to us to join them and take benefit in their healing nature.

COVID-19 doesn't faze our gardens. We don't need

face masks to garden and we don't have to worry about social distancing from our plants. We don't have to constantly wash our hands and not touch our face to garden. Heck, I'm up to my elbows in earthy garden soil while wiping my sweaty brow. In certain reasonable cases, a person could even garden in their birthday suit (think moon garden, but that's another column). Our gardens welcome us. They don't give a hoot about our appearance.

Remember the old TV western "Paladin" (have gun will travel)? Well now it's Stuart (have garden will travel). You are the backyard heroes that our readers want to know more about. Contact the *Medina Weekly News*; I'll come by for a visit and chat. It will be a pleasure to see you and your gardens featured in our columns. It will be beautiful – and we will learn from each other.

On our next stroll through The Garden Gate, we are going to meet Ashley Kulanek. She is the Ohio State University Extension educator in agriculture and natural resources for Medina County. She is also director of the Medina County Master Gardeners and we will discover more about these topflight gardeners next time.

Remember the Chinese proverb: "Life begins the day you start a garden." Until next time, peace and health.

This week's tip: for continuous blooms, deadhead spent flowers.

## Healthy Lifestyles

# Simple stress reduction you can do during COVID-19

It's no secret that stress levels for most are at an all-time high since COVID-19 was announced.

We all know the importance of reducing stressors in today's environment because stress can lead to a compromised immune system and increased chance of illness. When COVID-19 was first publicized, I'll never forget my husband telling me about the anxiety and panic he had witnessed during his first trip to a grocery store.

Standing in line to check out, a woman yelled, with fear in her voice, "You're not six feet away. Get away from me!"

Sadly, I even witnessed some cower in a corner because they were so scared. A few people even "mask-shamed" our thermography clients because, due to their imaging study, they were unable to wear a mask that day.

The stress and anxiety that people continue to experience is frightening but, fortunately, there are easy ways to reduce your risk for contracting COVID-19 and chronic illness, which start with reducing stressors in your life – chemical, emotional, and physical.

**Eat right.** Eat organic with lots of veggies and fruits.

Food has the power to hurt or heal us and changing what you eat you can change your health.

Keeping your **hands clean** is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs.



**CAROLE LANEY**  
FDN-Practitioner, Medina

On average, you are exposed to 840,000 germs every 30 minutes, according to *Infection Control Today*, so do not skip the soap and keep those hands away from your face.

**Turn off the TV news.** While the media can be an excellent resource for information, it is important that we all remember that television media outlets rely on ratings and reviews to stay in business.

While negative news results in higher ratings, negative news also increases stress and anxiety.

**Reach out to a friend,** for both yourself and for them. Many individuals are still taking precautions and staying home which can lead to extreme loneliness. Loss of things that are important to us, like friendships and physical interactions, can often be overlooked. Don't wait to host that virtual coffee date.

**Move your body** as often as you can.

If you can get outside and soak up the fresh air and natural Vitamin D, that is even better. Vitamin D helps your body to function more effectively and is vital for wellbeing and exercise becomes like a drug with its addictive qualities. Combining the two is an easy way to implement a lifestyle choice that will improve your health and reduce stress almost instantly.

**"There are easy ways to reduce your risk for contracting COVID-19 ...which start with reducing stressors in your life."**

According to the American Psychology Association, did you know **sleeping** 60-90 minutes more per night can make you happier and healthier?

Hit the sheets early tonight and feel better tomorrow.

Remember that stress can cause an array of symptoms – feelings of exhaustion, emotional instability, insomnia, brain fog and more.

Make time for stress relief and become the CEO of your wellness plan.

It not only benefits your health, but you will be more productive, improve longevity, sleep more soundly, look younger, and feel better, too.

# Have you heard the buzz about the Medina Fiber network?

By Janet Gommel

Recently, I had the opportunity to learn about the upcoming installation process of Medina Fiber broadband network.

According to Village of Seville Mayor Carol Carter, "Construction of the new, high-speed Medina Fiber network will begin in July, covering the Villages of Seville and Westfield Center. Overwhelming interest in the network has prompted our investors to accelerate funding for a much larger portion of the

network totaling approximately 40,000 homes. Additional locations will be added after the first 40,000 homes, connecting via fiber and high speed wireless for remote areas"

In discussions with Brian Snider of LitCommunities on April 23, he discussed how after Seville and Westfield Center were completed, the project is aimed to move north through Guilford and Westfield townships towards Chippewa Lake and Medina. His hope was for an

October start for these areas.

The reason all of this is important to Medina County residents is found in an article written by Forsythe Appraisals published in July 2015.

"Valuation professionals know the importance of an internet connection in the field when they're conducting an appraisal, but the ability to connect to the web impacts the valuation process beyond accessing data on comparable properties during a walkthrough."

"A recent study commissioned by the Fiber to the Home Council Americas (FTTH) and conducted by researchers from the University of Colorado at Boulder and Carnegie Mellon University found broadband Internet connections have a positive impact on home values. Specifically, fiber optic broadband that produces download speeds of 1 gigabyte per second can add about \$5,400 to a home's value."

For more information, visit [www.medina.litcommunities.net](http://www.medina.litcommunities.net)

and check out availability for your home.

As a homeowner and real estate professional, I have encountered many of our buyers who now work from home indefinitely being interested in a future home's connectivity – or the lack of it. What a great marketing item for your future sale: "This home is connected to the Medina Fiber community."

Howard Hanna Realtor Janet Gommel is currently president of the Medina County Board of Realtors.



# County Arts Council's 36th Arts Week going virtual

By Kevin McManus

The show, as they say, must go on. Despite challenges caused by COVID-19, specifically the cancellation of most in-person summer events, the Medina County Arts Council is moving ahead with its annual Arts Week by bringing an array of diverse performances directly to community members via online broadcasts twice a day July 13-17.

It's a departure from previous years, as Arts Week is traditionally celebrated through a number of live gatherings centered around the expression of artistry. However, utilizing the digital platform, MCAC members believe the level of quality local talent is well preserved and should be celebrated all the same.

"We are excited about continuing the 36-year tradition of bringing local performers and artists to the Medina County community with our annual Arts

Week in July," said Linda Loveless, MCAC president. "The difference is, this year, everyone can enjoy it from the comfort of their homes."

Members of the community and beyond are encouraged to join in MCAC's Virtual Arts Week for noon and 7:30 p.m. broadcasts every day from Monday, July 13, through Friday, July 17, by visiting MCAC on its Facebook page at Facebook.com/MedinaCountyArtsCouncil.

In addition to sharing on social media, MCAC recommends RSVP'ing to Virtual Arts Week by clicking "Going" on the event page posted at the top of its Facebook page in order to receive updates, but this is not required to view the performances, which will also be available for viewing at MedinaCountyArtsCouncil.org.

Schedule of virtual performances:

**Monday July 13, at noon** – Ekklesia Reed



Photo courtesy of Grady Miller

Americana duo Grady Miller, comprised of husband and wife Cathy Grady Miller (left) and Michael Grady, both of whom are also instructors at Woodsy's in Medina, are one of several acts slated to perform in the Medina County Arts Council's 36th Arts Week – this year a virtual affair due to COVID-19.

Quintet, classical

**Monday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m.** – Grady Miller, blues and Americana duo, also instructors at Woodsy's

**Tuesday, July 14, at noon** – Adam Michel, Cloverleaf Local Schools art teacher, presenting a chalk art presentation and demonstration

**Tuesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m.** – John Husbands, Medina-based singer-song-

writer and guitarist

**Wednesday, July 15, at noon** – Kelly Parks and students from the Medina Centre for Dance Arts

**Wednesday, July 15, at 7:30 p.m.** – Jim Gill, Medina-based folk singer-songwriter and guitarist

**Thursday, July 16, at noon** – Nick Elkevizth, acoustic guitarist from Lodi Music

**Thursday, July 16, at**

## Pool open for the summer

By Kevin McManus

The city of Medina's outdoor pool at Memorial Park on East Homestead Street has opened for the season. It will be open seven days a week, weather permitting, with adjusted hours.

The pool will be open for two sessions daily: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The pool will be closed and the area cleared from 2-3 p.m. for deep cleaning and sanitizing, according to the Medina Community Recreation Center.

The pool was to remain closed for the season, but a number of local donors stepped in to help.

Built in the 1950s by the Jaycees, Memorial Pool was closed in 2012 after falling victim to disrepair and dwindling customers. Following years of heated debates among Medina City Council members, the pool was renovated and reopened in 2017.



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## 2220 Help Wanted

**DRIVER/WORKER NEEDED** for siding crew, (330)466-8451 (Kidron or surrounding area).

**HEARTLAND STAIRWAYS INC** is looking for experienced woodworker to help build custom wood stairways. Must be 18 years old. Competitive wages, benefits, and transportation in most areas. Apply at 8230 CR 245 Holmesville, OH 44633 or call (330)279-2554.

**WALNUT CREEK CHEESE** is seeking full-time and part-time candidates for positions in our Walnut Creek Store and at our Berlin store. Interested and qualified individuals may turn in their applications at any Walnut Creek Cheese location or mail to: P.O. Box 139, Walnut Creek, OH 44687 or email your application or resume to HR@walnutcreekfoods.com.

**HELP WANTED ON a Siding Crew.** Good pay offered, along with benefits and reasonable hours. Please contact Joey Weaver at (330)473-3737.

**TRIM CARPENTRY CREW** seeking motivated team member. Driver's license required. Must be dependable, able to work well with others, and give attention to detail. Experience a plus. Competitive wages, paid vacation, and retirement plan. Call (330)763-1002.

**PART-TIME DRIVER** needed from Apple Creek or surrounding areas for local construction company to drive sales person. Call: (330)749-8875. Leave message.

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**FOR SALE: AMISH** made oak convertible crib/toddler/full-bed 8744 Harrison Rd. Apple Creek. (330)473-7058.

**FOR SALE: E-BIKE** Surface 604, hyd. disc brakes, still in very good condition! \$1600. Call/text (330)641-8650.

**FOR SALE: LANDSCAPE** stone, pavers and retaining wall blocks. Landscape company went out of business. Cheap. Everything must go! 11024 Dover Rd. Applecreek, OH.

**MAGUM 48V WOMEN's** Raleigh bike, great condition, \$1,200. (330)473-7190.

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