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What cherished memories do you hold dear? And how did those take center stage over others? Hard to figure out, isn't it? Some are small moments that have managed to become etched into your memory, and others are monumental events, like the birth of a child, a wedding, or a vacation in some exotic or relaxing locale. Some memories are sad. These, I try to make peace with and move on.



Most of my fondest memories are of simple, quiet times: reading books to my kids, floating on a raft in a lake, hiking a trail, swimming across the lake at Camp Storer, sharing a pizza and a private joke with a high school friend, fishing with my Dad, cutting flowers for my Mom.

It may remain a mystery to me as to which memories I, or the people that I am with, will treasure. Somehow, I think that it is all about love.

Wish you sweet times to treasure!



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KEEPING FOOD SAFE

By Chris Alexander

There are many guidelines to follow to store and keep foods fresh. The Ohio State Extension has many resources to keep you up-to-date. Here are few tidbits from the OSU Extension in Lucas County:

- Don't eat raw sprouts.
- Don't wrap mushrooms in a paper bag because they will turn spongy and wrinkly. Don't cover them with a wet paper towel as this speeds up the decaying process. Store loose mushrooms in a zipper-lock bag partially opened to allow for air circulation. Whenever possible, store mushrooms in their original container.
- Fish stored at 32 degrees Fahrenheit keeps twice as long as fish stored at 41 degrees. To achieve this atmosphere, place fish in a zipper-lock bag on ice and store at the back of the refrigerator (the coldest part). Always chill fish immediately upon returning home.
- Keep eggs in their original container and store in the coldest part of the refrigerator, not the door. Since eggs can be sold up to 2 months after packaging, store in the refrigerator for only 3 to 5 weeks, depending on when you purchased them.
- Butter can pick up odors in the refrigerator and become rancid after only a month. If you do not use butter often, store it in a zipper-lock bag in the freezer and thaw as needed. Butter is safe in the freezer for up to 4 months.
- Soft cream cheese keeps 5-6 days after opening.
- Parmesan and Romano keeps for 2 months after opening when refrigerated.



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By Carolyn Beyersdorf,
Decorating Den
 (see pg. 12)

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HYDROPONICALLY GROWN HERBS



Want the convenience of fresh herbs? Take an herb cutting 6" long, remove all of the leaves 4" up from the bottom, and pop into a jar filled with tap or rain water (not distilled, you'll be missing essential minerals.) Change the water once a week until roots have sprouted, then don't change it. Place the jar in a sunny window. Snip as needed!

Herbs that grow well, hydroponically: Basil, Lemon Balm, Oregano, Peppermint, Tarragon, Thyme, Sage, Spearmint and Stevia.

Check out this rack of sweet vases from Elmore Ohio's **Whimsy & Blue** (see pg. 29) Adorable for flowers on a table or herbs on your windowsill.



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THE MAREDA CENTER: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

By Patti Robb

Imagine getting up in the morning to brush your teeth and take a shower, only to find you have no tooth brush, soap, or towel. Many of us take these basic amenities for granted, along with access to a good meal, quality education, and basic safety. For families who live in poverty, however, these items are not readily available.



These challenges and more face families living in Moody and Regina Manors, located in the heart of Toledo's central-city. But unlike other housing communities, residents of Regina and Moody Manors have The Mareda Center.



A small nonprofit, The Mareda Center provides experiences in education and outreach to help empower families and individuals. The center is life changing for the residents who utilize their services. "Our programs have been developed based on the needs expressed through extensive surveying and listening to residents," says Allison Perz, director of The Mareda Center. "For example, we help moms who want to earn their GED. We provide transportation and safe childcare while moms are studying for their GED, and they are so appreciative," she adds.

In addition, The Mareda Center has helped 100+ students living in Moody and Regina Manors obtain Educational Choice (EdChoice) Scholarships. These scholarships give the students the chance to leave an underperforming public school and attend a participating private school. "Our kids attend three private schools in the area," says Perz. "The Mareda Center is investing in their success by providing them the uniforms, shoes, school supplies, tutoring support, transportation, and other wrap-around services to ensure they are successful."

The Center utilizes neighborhood partners like Mercy Health Family Center and the Wayman Palmer YMCA to help create healthy lifestyles and additional opportunities. According to Perz, "Most of our neighbors are living 200-400% below the federal poverty level—those with the highest level of need in our community. The people who come here are focused on doing what it takes to have a better life. And, thanks to our generous donors, we are able to continue this life-changing work," she adds.

Like most nonprofits, The Mareda Center greatly benefits from the generosity of donors and volunteers. To learn more about donating time, talent or treasure, call The Mareda Center at 567-661-0445 or email info@themaredacenter.org.

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Make it Memorable this Spring

SWAPPING PLANTS

By Tahree Lane

Spring is nature's way of telling gardeners to party. And few things sweeten the fest as well as swapping some of my lilacs for your daisies.



Photo Credit: Tahree Lane

Bowling Green and Toledo will host two free plant exchanges. Attendees will leave with at least a few plants; those who bring garden goods to share can take the number they donated. Master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions.

Wood County's event takes place on April 27 at the Wood County Fairgrounds, Haskins and Poe Roads. The event begins at 9 a.m. with plant drop off.

Bring labeled, weed-free items. At 10 a.m., the "exchange" opens and continues until plants are gone, usually in under an hour. 419-354-9050 and Facebook for more information.

Toledo's May 4 exchange takes place at Ohlman's Farm and Greenhouse, 3901 Hill Ave. Drop off begins at 8:30 a.m.; giveaway at 10 a.m. 419-578-6783 and Facebook for more information.



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IS ESTATE PLANNING ON YOUR 2019 TO-DO LIST?

Estate planning is often one of those things that you never get around to tackling. With the everyday pressures of life, it tends to linger in the background. Besides, who wants to think about death?

RCO Law Attorney Brad Blandin suggests considering the sense of security and peace of mind it offers for you, as well as your loved ones.

“No matter your stage in life, you should have at least a basic estate plan. An estate plan will provide security for your spouse and loved ones. It will also provide you with a sense of relief knowing that your affairs are in order,” he explained.

Individuals often own a home, bank accounts, investments, life insurance, retirement accounts, and personal property. What happens if you are in a coma and are unable to manage these assets? Who has the authority to act on your behalf if you are incapacitated? What happens to these assets when you pass?



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“No matter your stage in life, you should have at least a basic estate plan...”

An estate plan will ensure that you choose the answers to these questions using a Last Will and Testament, Financial Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, and Living Will.

Estate planning is a valuable investment for the financial health and security for you and your loved ones.

Engage an attorney who will become a trusted advisor and who will guide you through establishing, or updating, your estate plan. Make your estate plan a top priority in 2019 for you and for your family.

For additional information, contact Brad Blandin at 419-249-7900.

HOT GLASS

By Tara Outten,
Firenation (see pg. 49)

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Make it Memorable this Spring

ST. PAUL'S ENDURES AS GATHERING PLACE

By Kathy Chirdon



Toledo's majestic downtown churches once made significant contributions to the city's character and quality of life. Vibrant neighborhoods grew up around them, and they remained bastions of community life until the 1960s, when the residential population moved to the suburbs. Unlike most of these churches, **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** (428 N. Erie St.) did not follow congregants into the suburbs—it remained "involved and committed to downtown Toledo," according to Kate Philabaum, director of art and music. "As a way to connect with the community," she explains, "the congregation created **HeART Gallery** in the building's former educational wing. It's an outreach that engages many people through monthly exhibits, participation in vibrant Toledo Art Loop activities, and monthly Lunch & Learn events."

Exhibits for the spring months are: "The Art of Scripture" — a Lenten theme featuring pottery and the works of fiber artist Linda Witte Henke (March); "Celebrate the Home" —



a design-driven vendor and craft event (April); and "Vintage Wedding Photos and Dresses" with Spring Tea (May). Visit heartgalleryandstudios.com for hours and information on a multitude of other special events.

St. Paul's educational wing was built in 1927 as the Parish Hall, which includes a large auditorium with stage and grand piano, a gymnasium with showers, a commercial-sized kitchen, and beautifully-adorned rental spaces. To reserve a room for your upcoming party, meeting, shower, reception, staff retreat or recital (up to 140 guests), contact Kate at 419.270.3224 or kate@stpaulstoledo.org.

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No juices, sugar or additives, just great flavor that comes when you use various fruits and herbs. It's best made when you slightly crush the ingredients before adding them to water in a glass jar, bottle or pitcher then refrigerate them for a few hours or overnight and strain into your glass or water bottle.

ON-TIME FOR A MEMORABLE DAY

By *Veronica Sheets, Schedel Arboretum & Gardens*

Don't let tardy guests ruin your "moment" walking down the isle. We see this happen a lot—it's very unintentional, but it does happen. Guests can get lost finding your venue or with a setting like we have at **Schedel Gardens**, they often don't realize they have a little walk to get to the ceremony site. We recommend to brides that they either pad the ceremony start time on the invitation or plan on starting about 15 minutes later than what was put on the invitation. You can plan your perfect outdoor wedding at schedelgardens.org. Enjoy your moment!



*Cardamom Rose and Strawberry Jalapeño Infused Waters
Photo: View from Great Island*

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BUTTERMILK LEMON BREAD

By Sue Moran | Prep Time: 20 minutes | Cook Time: 55 minutes | Serves 12
Recipe adapted from Bon Appetit. <https://theviewfromgreatisland.com/buttermilk-lemon-bread-recipe>



Photo: The View from Great Island

INGREDIENTS

- zest of 1 lemon
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 3/4 cups cake flour (use all purpose flour if you like)
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup buttermilk

GLAZE

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- lemon juice to thin, start with 1 table-spoon and add more as necessary

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Lightly butter a 9x5 loaf pan and line it with parchment paper with long ends so you can lift the bread out later for glazing and slicing.
2. Remove the peel from the lemon with a vegetable peeler. A serrated peeler works best for this. You want to remove just the yellow part of the peel, with little of the bitter white part.
3. Put the sugar and lemon peelings in a food processor and process until the peels are completely incorporated into the sugar.
4. Put the lemon sugar and butter into a stand mixer and cream until light and fluffy — a full 5 minutes.
5. Beat in each of the eggs, one by one, making sure each egg is fully incorporated before adding the next one. Continue beating for another 2-3 minutes.
6. Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt and add to the mixer, alternately with the buttermilk, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Finish mixing by hand, to make sure everything is thoroughly mixed, but don't over beat.
7. Turn the batter into the prepared pan, spread out evenly, and bake on the center rack for 50-55 minutes, or until fully risen and a toothpick inserted near the center comes out without wet batter clinging to it (moist crumbs are fine.)
8. Let the bread cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then remove, using the parchment paper handles, and let fully cool on a rack.
9. Meanwhile whisk together the sugar with enough lemon juice to make a thick glaze. Spread the glaze over the cooled bread.

JEWELS AND MEMORIES

By Gayle Walterbach, Coyote Beads
(see pg. 15)

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SCOOP IT UP

By Ellen Simmons Wisniewski, Nedley's Ice Cream & Coffee Café (see pg. 55)

Give the special young person in your life the gift of uninterrupted time. Visit for a homemade cookie or a scoop of ice cream, sure to please even the pickiest of eaters. Nedley's has lots of toys for kids to play with, puzzles you can borrow, and books to read together. Make memories!



BEST OLIVE OIL IS A SURPRISE

By Chris Alexander

When Diane Rogers, famed cook and culinary instructor, claims this is the best olive oil, you pay attention. She says Zoe Extra Virgin Olive Oil available at Walmart, of all places, is the best.

Awarded "Best Choice" and "Fruitiest Oil" in a *New York Times* competition, it's described by the *Times* as a sensuous balance of delicate fruit and luscious butter with an aromatic bouquet of pepper, fresh basil, almond and artichoke heart.

Hailing from Spain, the olive oil has a rich green color, and distinctive flavor. Cold pressed from the Cornicabra olive groves, it's then blended with other Spanish olive varieties. The buttery oil comes in a colorful tin, which also helps keep it fresh.





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KILL THE LIGHTS TO SAVE MIGRATING BIRDS

By Kathy Chiridon

Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night when temperatures are cooler and there's less danger from predators. Even so, nighttime flying itself can be deadly for millions of birds because of a man-made hazard: bright city lights. Migrating birds often use stars as navigation cues, but as they pass over cities and towns, they can become disoriented by urban lights, especially those on high buildings and other structures directly in their paths.



Lights Out is a national effort whose strategy is convincing building owners and managers to turn off excess lighting during the migration seasons. Dozens of urban areas have made that commitment with successful results: Lights Out Chicago reported an 80% reduction in collisions at a single building following a reduction in nighttime lighting. Several Ohio cities, including Columbus, Miami Valley (Dayton) and Akron-Canton are part of Ohio Lights Out. Efforts to commence the program are ongoing in Toledo.

Tall glass buildings in urban areas are the biggest threats to migrating birds, but Jasmine Cupp of Black Swamp Bird Observatory in Oak Harbor says there are ways you can reduce your light emission at home:

- Turn off unnecessary lights, especially decorative exterior lights, from midnight to dawn during spring and fall migrations (March 15–June 1 and Aug. 15–Oct. 31).
- Use down-shielded lighting outdoors.
- Draw shades and blinds if indoor lights are required after midnight.

Jasmine suggests visiting **Black Swamp Bird Observatory's** Bird Safe/Birder Friendly Community Initiative webpage (bsbo.org/bird-safe-birder-friendly-communities) to learn more about these initiatives.

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EASTER EGG ROLL RECALLS A PRESIDENTIAL FIRST

By Chris Alexander

It's a big media event today and the idea has been copied by many communities across the country, but who knew the celebrated Presidential Easter Egg roll began with President Rutherford B. Hayes and First Lady Lucy Hayes of Fremont, Ohio?



Hayes Presidential Library

On Saturday, April 20, at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., children ages 3-10 are invited to the **Hayes Presidential Home and Museum** in Fremont to participate in a variety of egg games replicating the famous White House Easter Egg Roll started by President Hayes.

Prizes are awarded in six age categories, and each child receives a balloon and treats. Admission is three hard-boiled colored eggs for use in the games. Children are also invited to participate in face painting, corn-hole games, craft activities and visits with the Easter Bunny.

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Tap into your inner psyche with a tarot card reading from Amy Lynne, **Mystic Momma Tarot** (pg. 68). Tarot cards can help you at any point in your life, but especially when you are at a crossroads with your relationships, career or health, says Amy Lynne. She offers private readings and even comes to Ladies Night Out parties where she can provide mini-readings for guests in a private room. The answers come from your higher consciousness, spirit guide, ancestors or the divine, says Amy. "There are 78 cards in the traditional tarot deck and they hold a message for everyone. Your whole life—all the people you will meet all the paths you will take—are contained in the deck." Visit mysticmommatarot.simdif.com to learn more!



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HYBRID AND HEIRLOOM TOMATOES

By Kathy Chirdon

There is a lot of confusion out there regarding hybrid vs. heirloom plants, especially when it comes to tomatoes. A hybrid vegetable is created when plant breeders intentionally cross-pollinate two varieties of a plant, aiming to produce an offspring that contains the best traits of each. According to Ohio State University Extension ("Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden," ohioline.osu.edu), hybrids are usually more vigorous or have some superior traits compared to either parent. Many hybrids have outstanding taste and disease resistance. Gardeners cannot collect and save seeds from ripe hybrid tomatoes since those seeds do not remain genetically true to type.

How experts define heirlooms can vary, but typically they are at least 50 years old, and are often pre-WWII varieties. Most heirlooms come from seed that has been handed down for generations. All heirloom vegetables are open-pollinated — pollinated by wind and insects. Many gardeners argue that heirloom tomatoes boast greater flavor than that found in hybrids. OSU Extension notes several good heirloom varieties — Brandywine, Cherokee Purple, Mortgage Lifter and Rutgers — but cautions that not all heirloom tomatoes are good. Some of them may be more prone to diseases and cracking.

The large, meaty and flavorful Brandywine is the top selling heirloom at **Wolf's Blooms & Berries** (pg. 2) in Bowling Green. Owner Sue Wolf reports that Wolf's offers nine heirloom and 18 hybrid varieties. "Our best eating/slicing tomato is Celebrity — it's disease resistant, a great size and the easiest to grow!" says Sue. "Our customer-favorite small tomato is Sun Sugar, which is yellow and packed with sweetness."

Diane Giddens, who owns **Oak Park Garden Center** (pg. 43) with her husband Richard, says her personal favorite tomato is an heirloom, the Black Krim. "It grows to a nice size, has a dark purplish color, but most of all, it tastes like tomatoes used to taste. You know, with flavor!" Oak Park carries a large selection of hybrid and heirloom veggies, herbs, and other plants not usually found locally.

Amy Stone, OSU Extension Educator in Lucas County, comments, "Choosing which tomatoes to grow is really a personal preference. I think we are all after taste, but

we should consider those that are more disease resistant or at least tolerant. If you start with a plant with those traits, you are more likely to have fruit all season long. Plants susceptible to disease won't be long lived in the garden if weather conditions are not favorable and disease spores are present. Whether hybrid or a heirloom, enjoy the fruit, which some call a vegetable, in 2019!"



"Keep close to nature's heart and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

— John Muir



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GIFTS THE BRIDE AND GROOM WILL CHERISH

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

- **HOUSEWARE ITEMS** - **Sheffield Road** is stocked with perfect shower and wedding gifts: china, cutlery, crystal, picture frames, vases, and pitchers that will be cherished by the couple for years to come. **Ralph's Joy of Living** (pg. 46) offers wedding registry services for stocking a kitchen, plus appliances and electronics. Even beds! Let **Packer Creek Pottery** (pg. 42) design your china, special wedding cake stand or Mr. & Mrs. coffee mugs. All things glass: stemware, serving pieces for every day and entertaining can be found at **Libbey Factory Outlet** (pg. 19).
- **PERSONALIZED LINENS** - Towels, sheets, napkins, handkerchiefs... **Jones & Company** (pg. 6) provides custom monogramming, personalizing gifts that are sure to be treasured!
- **BRIDESMAIDS GIFTS** - Consider personalized hand-stamped necklace charms or bracelets from **Roobarb** (pg. 55).
- **WEDDING POUR** - **Firenation** (pg. 49) Engaged couples can pick out fractured glass, then at the ceremony or reception, pour them into a vessel which will be made into a keepsake.
- **METAL ART** - **Copper Moon** (pg. 31) will design a metal wall hanging using monogram or a new last name. They also can use a "save the date" picture and infuse it into a glass plate. So special!
- **WATERFORD CRYSTAL AND CUSTOM JEWELRY** - **Broer Freeman Jewelers** (pg. 48) Pick up a wide-array of Waterford Crystal vases, cocktail glasses bowls, etc. Engrave a special message on a watch and cuff links for the groom. Create one-of-a-kind jewelry from vintage pieces passed down in the family.



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A quick and easy way to get a terrific bread on the table in just over an hour! And no kneading required. You could also try mixing dried herbs into the dough, or half whole wheat for the flour or try other toppings.



INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp (one packet or 1/4 ounce) dry yeast, make sure it's fresh!
- 2 cups warm water (105-110F)
- 2 tsp table salt
- 4 cups all-purpose or bread flour (I usually use all-purpose)
- extra virgin olive oil, about 1/4 cup plus extra for oiling the bowl and baking pan
- fresh rosemary leaves (approximately 4 Tbsp)
- 1 Meyer lemon, sliced paper thin, seeds removed
- 1/2 cup pitted oil cured, Kalamata, or other flavorful black olives, not the kind in the can
- kosher or sea salt for sprinkling over the top

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix the yeast and the warm water in a large bowl. Stir in the salt and 2 cups of the flour and mix into a soft sticky dough.
2. Add the remaining 2 cups of flour and mix well, the dough will still be somewhat sticky and shaggy.
3. Oil a clean bowl and transfer the dough to the oiled bowl. Cover with plastic and let sit in a warm spot for 40 minutes (in an oven that has been heated to 150 degrees F, then turned off, or in front of a warm sunny window)
4. Set the oven to 425F
5. Turn the risen dough out onto an oiled baking sheet. Press it out gently with floured fingers into a rectangle, about 10x15, approximately.
6. Using your fingers, dip them into the olive oil and then make little dimples all over the dough. The oil will pool in the little indentations. Don't skimp here, that oil will flavor the dough and give it great texture as it bakes, too.
7. Top with the sliced lemons, rosemary leaves, and olives, pushing them into the dough just gently. Dab a little more olive oil on top if you think you don't have enough. Shower lightly with sea salt.
8. Make sure your oven is at the correct temperature, and bake for about 20-22 minutes, until the bread is just golden. Rotate the baking sheet halfway through if the bread is baking unevenly.
9. Let cool slightly before slicing and devouring.

You could also try mixing dried herbs into the dough, or half whole wheat for the flour or try other toppings.

*Recipe and photo credited to The view from great island.
<https://theviewfromgreatisland.com/rosemary-and-olive-no-knead-focaccia-bread-recipe/>*

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HEALTHY GUT, HEALTHY YOU

By Kathy Chirdon

Trillions of bacteria, viruses and fungi inhabit every one of your body parts. Together, they make up the human microbiota. Medical scientists are currently studying the microbiota to determine the normal microscopic inhabitants of every organ with a goal of restoring that balance when it is disrupted. Their results could someday save your health.

“Gut microbiota” has been a hot topic recently, and with good reason—the most diverse and densely populated microbiota is found in the large intestine. “High gut microbial diversity is generally associated with health,” according to Nancy Flaherty, RD, LD, with the Health Education Center at Toledo Clinic (pg. 55).

“ ‘Gut dysbiosis’—the disturbance of healthy microbiota—has been implicated in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, hypertension, obesity and irritable bowel syndrome,” she continues. “Anxiety and depression are also being associated with the digestive system. Ninety-five percent of serotonin, the body’s happy hormone, is created in the gut. If gut bacteria become out of sync it can lead to inflammation, which is believed to be a major cause of depression.”

How do we achieve a hardy mix of microbes in the gut? Nancy responds, “There are many reasons we should increase our intake of plant foods, one being that fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains, nuts and seeds are associated with lowered disease risk and overall better health. Now there’s an added reason to eat this way: Human populations with diets rich in complex carbohydrates have more diverse



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microbiota, while populations with high-fat, high-sugar, low-fiber diets may experience a decline in diversity and possibly extinction of entire microbial groups. Many studies have shown that a Mediterranean-style diet that is rich in high-quality protein, fruits, vegetables and fiber can help restore the balance of the gut microbiota.”

Nancy theorizes that studying the microbiota will lead to more personalized medical remedies: “There still is much more research to do on this interesting subject, and as we learn more we can eventually individualize diets to help minimize or prevent symptoms of chronic disease.”

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MAKE MINE A MUSICAL!

By Kathy Chirdon

Spring is the season for high school musicals, and many of our local schools are hard at work rehearsing for opening night. Musicals are lots of fun for audiences, but the real winners are the student performers — singers, actors, dancers and musicians — as well as behind-the-scene directors, technicians and crews. The productions provide a rich learning experience and help students develop self-confidence and self-discipline while honing their time-management, teamwork and collaboration skills.

Here's a sampling of upcoming shows. Go to the schools' websites for times and ticket information.

- **St. John's Jesuit** (pg. 3) will perform Disney's "Newsies," March 15–17, at the Valentine Theatre. SJJ will be among the first schools to produce this powerful historical show about the newspaper carriers' strike against publishing titans.
- **Woodmore High School** will present "Footloose" March 21–24 at the Woodmore Elementary/Middle School building in Woodville. Buzz Book graphic designer Vicki Selhorst brings a parent's perspective to the spring musical experience as her son Dylan plays bad boy Chuck Cranston in this production. Vicki says, "His character is the boyfriend of the lead character, Ariel, and he is not a nice person—which will be hard to watch since Dylan is such a sweet kid. But getting kids outside of their comfort zone by exploring different characters on stage helps them develop real world skills while making memories that will last a lifetime."
- Brian Bozanich, director of theater at **Maumee Valley Country Day School** (pg. 61), says, "We are doing 'Seussical: The Musical,' April 25–28, involving more than 60 students from the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. While the skills of communication, collaboration, and problem solving are essential to both working in theater and 21st century learners, they are byproducts. The value of theater is its ability to create community—the community of cast, crew and musicians works hard for months and then shares that with the broader community of the audience. The moments shared in the space between performer and audience are reason enough to participate."



Woodmore Drama Club students work on a scene from "Footloose."
(L to R: Michael Lindhorst, Makenna Book, Dylan Selhorst, Courtney Hunt, Jack Hensel)



Central Catholic High School Glee Club Members (Left to Right)
Top: James Meyers
Middle: Leigha Schumaker and Liam Brown, Eve Fournier, Molly Hunter (seated) and Peter Ragan
Bottom: Alfred Dailey, Breanna White, and Giovanni DeSantis

- **Ottawa Hills** will bring "Newsies" to the stage of its auditorium April 26–28. Artistic director Darrin Broadway extols the virtues of educational theater arts: "Students love the camaraderie and discipline; administrators and parents appreciate the involvement and creativity; and the community embraces the quality."
- **Perrysburg High School** will present "Mamma Mia!" May 2–5. Kent Vandock, director of choral activities, says students "bring a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to the production and demonstrate the highest levels of preparation, perseverance and performance."
- **St. Francis de Sales High School's** 2019 musical is "42nd Street," May 2–5, at Lourdes University's Franciscan Center. Musical director Kevin Hayes points out that this is St. Francis' 30th anniversary of performing "42nd Street," and that Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz starred in the 1989 production.
- **St. Ursula Academy's** (pg. 71) musical, "Mamma Mia!" played to rave reviews in January. According to Kirsten Hinshaw, director of performing arts, "75 SUA girls and students from five other area high schools took part in the production allowing students to explore their creativity, meet new friends, gain confidence, and become lifelong supporters of the arts."
- **Central Catholic High** celebrates its 90th consecutive year of musicals which began during the Depression with "Peggy from Paris," an operetta with the largest high school marching band in the country! "We are thrilled to be a part of such a legacy that connects generations of actors, musicians and audiences," said Glee Club Director Debra Barrow who has staged 23 productions. "Les Miserables," will be performed May 3 and 4 at 7pm and May 5 at 2pm.

PLAN FOR COMMON WEDDING MISHAPS

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

What can go wrong on your wedding day? It turns out quite a lot! April Gladieux, the owner of Your Perfect Day, a wedding and party planning service in Northwest Ohio, shares a list of common wedding mishaps and what you can do to prevent them.

Bad weather. Pray for a beautiful sunny day, but realize it may rain. If you are planning an outdoor ceremony, have a Plan A for ideal weather, Plan B for iffy weather, and Plan C for bad weather. Make sure all your vendors are aware of the plans.

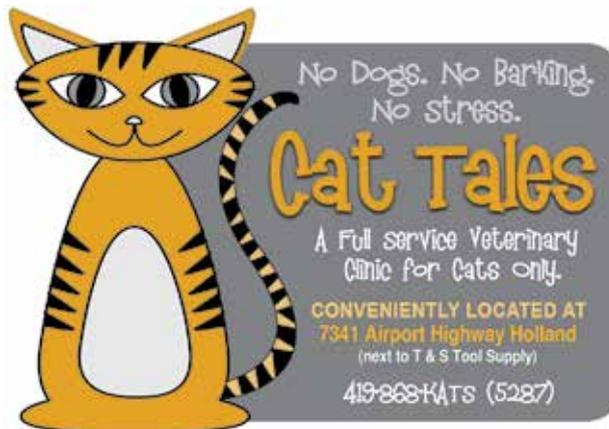
Guy outfits. Most guys don't open the tuxedo garment bag until right before the ceremony. As a result, many a groom and groomsmen have ended up with the wrong size or color pants, jacket, cummerbund or bowtie. All men in the wedding party should try on their tuxedos before leaving the store.

Aisle mistakes. Nobody pays close attention at the dress rehearsal. On the wedding day, it can be a challenge getting everyone to line up in the right order and start down the aisle at the right time when the right music is playing. If you are not using a wedding coordinator, put someone competent in charge of this part of the wedding.

Venue problems. Often times the venue hosting the reception makes a mistake with table settings. They may not have enough tables and chairs set up and guests are left standing. Always double-check to make sure it's correct.

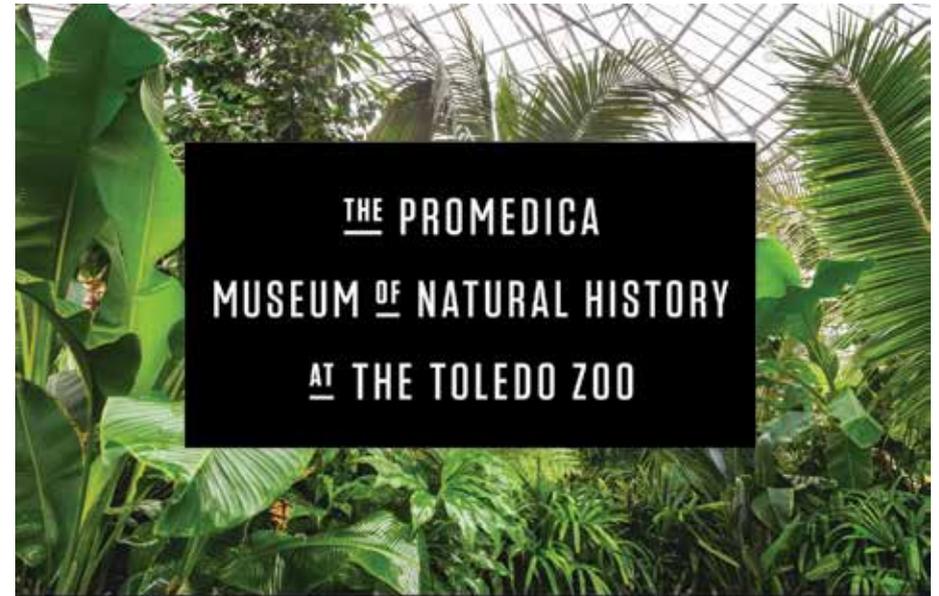
Cake on the ground. You want to save money, so you hire a family member or friend to bake your wedding cake. Probably not a good idea. A single-tier cake isn't a problem, but if you want a multiple-tier cake, stick with a professional. Many a wedding cake has ended up on the floor because it wasn't constructed correctly.

Bartender problems. Is there any harm in having Uncle Bert serve as your bartender? Uncle Bert may overpour—costing you money—and may not be able to cut someone off when they've had too much. A professional bartender is the right choice.



No shows. Where's the florist? What happened to the photographer? Don't count on any vendor (even family members and friends) unless you have a signed contract with clear expectations and you have placed a deposit.

No wedding day is free of glitches, but every wedding day is perfect!



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Make it Memorable this Spring

MAKING MEMORIES

By Ruth Franzen (see pg. 67)

When I think about someone, I think about how I feel about that person. Some people I want nothing to do with. The thought of them makes me wish I could shrivel away and disappear. Those are the people who said hurtful things and who are associated with unpleasant memories. But, oh, there are others. People who make me feel like I could just dance in the glow of the warmth of their positive regard.

What feelings do people have when they think of you? Make memories by looking at someone deeply, recognizing them, appreciating them, understanding them. So, when a person thinks of you, they will have that feeling, that knowledge, that someone really heard what they had to say, understood, loved and appreciated them for who they are. It only takes a few moments, but that gift of deep attention is a lasting gift for you both. Words are a gift as well. It's all too easy to remember harsh things people have said to one another—but oh, the gift of honest praise. Mentioning even a color someone is wearing, a beautiful smile, nice eyes, pleasant voice, how well something was done. Give the gift of honest praise—because the world can be such a harsh place. People can feel so lost and invisible. Plant the seeds of kindness, of appreciation, and of the memory of kind words.

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SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME FOR SPRING

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

Tips from Luella Smith of Colorful Living: (see pg. 49)

- Keep up with general maintenance on the outside of your home. Pull out the old landscaping and refresh with an updated look. You can tackle this project in stages.
- Your front door provides the first impression for visitors. Clean your front door or give it a fresh coat of paint. Make sure the color blends with your house and is not a distraction. If you have a porch, put out large pots with colorful flowers. Resist too many small items. Larger is better and looks less cluttered.
- If you are willing to spend a bit more money, update your kitchen. If the cabinets are in good shape and the layout works, new appliances, countertops and updated cabinet hardware can make a difference.
- Powder rooms are fun rooms to re-decorate. A new sink, chandelier or mirror are all items that can add value.

Tips from Carolyn Byersdorf of Decorating Den: (see pg. 12)

- Lighten and brighten your space. You can do this with a fresh coat of paint. Stay away from extreme colors and stick with neutrals. A neutral color makes a great backdrop for your furniture and décor. It also makes your room appear much larger.
- Rearrange your existing furniture. Try different layouts and think outside the box. For example, you can try angling your furniture.
- Invest in window treatments that are decorative and functional. Window treatments make your space warm and inviting. They also protect your furniture from sun damage.

Tips from Christine Neuman of Avant Garde Designs: (see pg. 22)

- Give a room new life and a new look by changing the wall color with paint or wallpaper. There are so many beautiful wall coverings available now and they add texture and color to the room.
- Another simple and cost-effective way to update your living area is to add or change pillows on a sofa or a chair.
- A new rug—carefully chosen and placed—can make a dramatic difference in any room.

Tips from Mendy Parker of Hutchison Fine Furniture in Findlay: (see pg. 8)

- For a fresh take on spring—declutter! The days of over accessorizing are over. Everyone is too busy to maintain tabletops filled with items. Select key accessories that are flexible enough to move from room to room.
- A new buzz word for upholstery is Performance fabrics. They are durable, cleanable, soft to the touch, and stain resistance. Without the use of any PFC chemicals, they are easy on your home and the environment. Yes, you can have the beautiful soft white sofa!
- Reinvent your room with new pillows in luxurious shades of emerald, navy, persimmon or sunflower. Patterns, textures and solids are all on trend.

SLOW DOWN, ENJOY!

By Denise Martin,
Martin & Martin
Insurance (see pg. 52)

These days, time is precious and life moves at super speed. Do you worry about slowing down and making the moments memorable? Martin & Martin will have you covered!



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Make it Memorable this Spring

READ 'EM THEN WEED

By Kathy Chirdon

If you're a reader, you're familiar with my predicament: not enough shelf space to hoard my books. Time to cull. In particular, I had too many nonfiction books that I had read, maybe found useful at the time, but to which I was unlikely to return — topics included exercise and diet, dog training, travel, retirement planning, health, gardening, cooking. They were all in good condition, and I did not have a sentimental attachment to them... maybe someone else would like them?



I took the books to **Gathering Volumes Bookstore** (pg. 7) in Perrysburg, where owner Denise Phillips accepted them. The store does not pay for used books, but it offers credit toward future purchases. (Just so happens I now have room on my shelves!) Gathering Volumes also carries new fiction and nonfiction, graphic literature, and children's books. It's a community-based, independent bookstore — books are chosen by local buyers, with feedback from its customers.

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STUDENTS GAIN RESTAURANT EXPERIENCE, DINERS GET YUM

By Kathy Chirdon



Senior Carson Burns' parents' love of cooking inspired him to aim for a career as a chef and restaurant owner.

Penta Career Center's (pg. 67) Culinary Arts Program is a classroom full of future restaurant owners, food-service managers, chefs, bakers and servers. At Culinary Connection, the school's restaurant, these students create, prepare and serve delicious lunches—more like gourmet meals!—receiving real-life training that will hone their skills and prepare them for life in the restaurant and hospitality world.

On a visit in January, featured student chef Emiliano Reyes created a Mexican menu, and I enjoyed generous servings of Elote (Mexican Street Corn), Chicken and Chorizo Tacos with rice and beans, and Churros with chocolate and dulce de leche dipping sauces. Including coffee, my bill was less than \$12. Chips and salsa were complimentary. Everything was muy deliciosa!

Culinary Connection serves lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. most Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the school: 9301 Buck Rd., Perrysburg. Dates for spring are March 6–8, March 20–22, March 27–29, and April 4–5. Call 419.666.1120, Ext. 1104, to verify that the restaurant is open or to make a reservation. (Reservations are preferred, especially for five or more guests.) Lunches may also be pre-ordered for carry out, and catering services are available for your party or work event.



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HOW TO COLOR EASTER EGGS

In a short plastic or glass cup, mix 1 teaspoon of vinegar with every ½ cup of hot water, then add 10 to 20 drops of food coloring. Use tongs, a slotted spoon or a wire egg holder to dunk and lift your egg from the dye. Hard cooked eggs take about 5 minutes to dye.

Grab a white crayon to draw designs or use sticky dots, masking tape or even stretch rubber bands around the egg before dipping.

Check out YouTube for a ton of videos on how to make egg dying fun! Colorful hard-boiled eggs make a delicious addition to the school box lunch.



“Gardening is one of the rewards of middle age, when one is ready for an impersonal passion, a passion that demands patience, acute awareness of a world outside oneself, and the power to keep on growing through all the times of drought, through the cold snows, toward those moments of pure joy when all failures are forgotten and the plum tree flowers.

– May Sarton, *Plant Dreaming Deep*

DUSTING STINKS, BUT SO DOES DUST

By Kathy Chirdon

Let's be honest—dusting is not anyone's idea of a fun time. And, it's easy to shrug off dust as not as bad as other forms of household filth. But actually, it's pretty bad, and it results in funky smells as well as an unsightly appearance. What is dust? Dust is made up of dead skin cells, insect parts and feces, pet dander, dust-mites, mold spores, and pollen, among other dirt particles. No wonder it has that sour, musty smell! Yuk!

Removing dust clears the air of unwanted odors more effectively than any Febreze fragrance. Use a microfiber cloth or wand, and work from the top of a room down, vacuuming dust that settles on the floor. Don't overlook shelves, books, blinds, ceiling fans and window casings.

GIVE ME A HUG

By Ann Worden

Well, we all know a good hug feels wonderful. Ever wonder why? Positive chemicals, dopamine and serotonin, are released from your brain and these chemicals enhance your mood, reduce blood pressure and improve the function of your heart.

One hug a day may strengthen your immune system. Who doesn't feel better with a hug? Give and welcome those hugs freely!

CELEBRATE MEMORABLY

By Holly Egan, Libbey Factory Outlet (see pg. 19)

Present your spring table setting with pops of spring color by serving in glass serveware. Show off your favorite green salad in our Selene glass serving bowl or a delightful berry trifle in our Selene trifle bowl.

Spring bouquets look most beautiful in a glass vase. Libbey Factory Outlet offers a large selection of glass serveware and glass vases to make all of your spring entertaining memorable!

TOAST TO 200 YEARS



Make it Memorable this Spring

WRITE A LETTER

Are you a letter saver? Have you come across a letter from a parent, an old high school sweet heart or maybe a note penned from one grandparent to another? It is such a sweet experience to remember earlier times, or to get to know our ancestors by reading their notes.

People just don't handwrite letters anymore. We text, we email, we Instagram and all of that helps us communicate, but if you really want to make a lasting impression—write a letter.

Need a nudge? Denise Phillips at **Gathering Volumes** bookstore (pg. 7) has some suggestions. Check out these sweet little books (and more). Drop in your notes and share it with a loved one. Great for yourself, great for a gift to a new grandma, father....mother.



STAND OUT COMFORT

By Tamie Tehensky, Ethan Allen (see pg. 24)

Invest in a stand out piece. One that is elegant and impeccably tailored with nail head trim and a statement making fabric. One that will witness love, change, firsts, lasts and all of life's moments in between.



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GET ARTSY IN THE GARDEN

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

Gardening is as much an art as a science. Using plants as your palette, you can design a garden that fits your unique style. Your plant selections and combinations—paying attention to color, shape, size, texture and more—will impact the final result.

Garden décor is another way to express yourself in the garden. These accents—from bird baths to sculptures, stepping stones to totem poles—add interest and whimsy in your garden. Here are some tips to keep in mind when shopping:

- **Pick items that you love.** It's your garden, after all. Your décor pieces should bring you joy every time you gaze at them (even when you're weeding)!
- **Check for durability.** Select accent pieces designed for the outdoors to withstand winds, rain and sun. Many outdoor accents will still weather and need to be replaced after a few years.
- **Think variety.** Mix it up with bold pieces that draw the eye and subtle pieces tucked between plants that are only noticed upon closer inspection.
- **Consider placement.** Use your artistic eye to place each piece. Consider height, color, and contrast in relationship to your plants.
- **Don't go overboard.** You don't want a garden that looks too cluttered. The plants should still be the stars of the garden!

Oak Park Landscape and Water Garden Center in Swanton (see pg. 33) carries a large inventory of garden art and décor. Owners Richard and Diane Giddens spend the wintertime creating many wood carvings and concrete items by hand. Richard is a "chain saw artist"—creating sculptures and furniture out of wood, and Diane casts leaves out of concrete. Be sure to check it out this spring, and add something special to your garden!



CHARMING

By Karla Militello and Karrie Meyer, *Summer Kitchen Interiors*, (see pg. 35)

Use antiques in your decor to make your house memorable! They add a surprising touch to your room. Try an antique pitcher to hold your tissues or a vintage square tureen (that you were going to get rid of because the lid broke) to hold your napkins on the table. Think outside of the box!



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THEMES MAKE THE PARTY

By Chris Alexander

"A paper bag all crumpled arrived in my mailbox. What? The message on the bag said to meet at Joe's Bar and Grill and dress as a street person. That's how it all began," says Sue Cardone.

Sue loves creative parties and claims they are as easy as your wildest dreams! Do you like rodeos? Dress as a cowboy and do hat and rope tricks. Are you a M*A*S*H fan? Wear your army fatigues and don't forget to bring a teddy bear for Radar! Like to swim? Wear bathing suit cover ups and make up stories about your swimming escapades! How about a clue hunt? Or better still, host a fabulous Italian meal and dress like you just arrived from Italy. Put a candle in an old wine bottle and let the wax drip.

Jane DiSalle suggests a casual wine tasting. Ask everyone to bring their favorite wine (see **Chateau Tebeau**, pg. 67) and an appetizer that pairs well. You can keep the wine concealed in its brown paper bag and ask everyone to vote on their favorite mystery bottle. This often provides interesting tallies and some giggles, especially when you can't see the label or know its price, says Jane.

I find those old Murder (who done it?) parties still have a lot going for them. We once laughed all night at a James Bond party—everyone stayed in character. Memorable too was a Tacky Party where "Tacky Truly" reigned supreme. Appetizers included leftover mac and cheese. Yes, I'm easily amused.

Just let your imagination run wild and you'll have a great party!

GRADUATION GIFT IDEAS

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

When it comes to graduation gifts, cash is king. Money is something almost every high school or college graduate needs as they embark on a new life chapter. But how much money is appropriate to give? And what are some other gift ideas that may be appreciated?

Hallmark did a study and found that \$25 is the average graduation gift amount for a close friend and \$20 is the average for a not-so-close friend. Relatives—like nieces, nephews and grandchildren—warrant a larger amount if you can afford it. Really, it comes down to your relationship to the graduate and what you feel comfortable giving.

If money seems too impersonal to you, consider pairing it with another gift. You could purchase a calendar and tape money or a small gift card to each month. A book (carefully chosen), pen set, picture frame, gift basket, and flowers are all thoughtful items to give alongside a cash gift.



PARTY NO-HELP

By Chris Alexander

There is that moment during a dinner party or gathering when the dishes are dirty and smiling up at you. Some people are immediate cleaners, some not. I'm happy to clear the table and continue visiting.

But occasionally, an industrious friend wants to wipe the slate clean. "Let me do this for you." Lovely, but no thanks, say I. She will insist. "I'll just gather up all this stuff." And soon, she's washing, drying and organizing. I consider handing her the vacuum cleaner as well. But no, my friend Marian has the perfect solution to the overly-tidy guest.

Have a staging area for dirty dishes. Laundry rooms work well, Marian says. The idea is to get the offending plates and glasses out of the way and out of sight. Now, you can continue visiting and leave the cleanup for after the party, instead of cutting into your enjoyment during it. My only advice: move fast before your helpful friend bulldozes her way to the dishwasher.

Marian offered an even better suggestion. Hire a teenager. Price is not prohibitive and one cheery worker (and perhaps her friend) can help with set up as well as clean up. Now, that's a party!

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EASE YOUR ANXIETY

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

Don't let anxiety control your life. With a little self-care, you can live a more tranquil existence.



- **Exercise regularly.** It keeps you physically and mentally healthy. Exercise at least 3 to 5 times a week for 30 minutes. A brisk walk outdoors is ideal. Or try a yoga or Pilates class at **Tonic** or **Perrysburg Yoga**.
- **Cut out caffeine.** It's a substance that can aggravate anxiety. Caffeine is found in coffee, soda, tea and chocolate. Try caffeine-free varieties of your favorite drinks.
- **Get a good night's sleep.** You need at least 8 hours of good quality sleep each night. If anxious thoughts are keeping you awake, stop screen time an hour before you go to bed, make sure your bed is comfortable, and keep your room on the cool side. Give aromatherapy a try because scents such as lavender can help promote sleep. Check out **Rosy Glow Wellness Therapies** (pg. 45).
- **Schedule worry time.** Set aside 30 minutes each day to think about your fears and what you can do about them. Don't think about "what-ifs," just the things that stress you out.
- **Breathe and relax muscles.** Practice deep breathing and muscle relaxation exercises. Do this regularly throughout the day. Try a deep body massage or reflexology session at **Body and Sole Massage Therapy and Reflexology** (pg. 21)

ITSY BITSY COOKING TIPS

By Diane Rogers, Syd & Diane's (see pg. 49)

Bread - Make the dough the night before cooking to develop and rehydrate the flour and flavor. Keep in the refrigerator until you are ready to shape.

To easily clean your hands after working with wet dough, dip them in flour, then rub together. The flour should clump up and come right off, then wash.

Cheese - For best flavor, always serve cheese at room temperature, but slice it when it's cold.

Corned Beef - Simmer brisket for about three hours in the least amount of purified water—covering just an inch with seasonings in a covered pot. Let it cool in the same pot. For the best flavor, make a day ahead. And it is best sliced for sandwiches, cold.

If you are adding potatoes and cabbage, add to the simmering pot after the first two hours with one hour to cook.

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INGREDIENTS

Pistachio Crumble

- 1/2 cup finely chopped pistachios, toasted until lightly brown in a dry skillet over medium heat or placed on a baking sheet in a pre-heated 350 degree oven
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lime zest
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, straight from the fridge

Filling

- 1/4 cup granulated sugar (add an extra 2 tablespoons if your strawberries aren't very sweet)
- 1/4 teaspoon grated lime zest
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon tapioca starch
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 pounds, whole strawberries, hulled and cut (6 1/2 cups)
- 2 tablespoons cream cheese at room temperature
- One 9-inch pie crust made and cooled with All Butter Pie Dough

STRAWBERRY PISTACHIO CRUMBLE PIE

What's more wonderful than a kitchen full of women singing (yes) and making pies! Make a trip to *sister pie* in Detroit, and/or buy Lisa Ludwinski's book: *Sister Pie: The Recipes & Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit*. Sweet pies, savory hand pies, cookies, breakfast treats and salads. You will not be disappointed!

Make the crumble: In a large mixing bowl, combine the pistachios, rolled oats, flour, brown sugar, cardamom, lime zest, and salt. Place the butter in the bowl and coat on all sides with the flour mixture. Take a bench scraper and cut the butter into 1/2-inch cubes directly into the flour mixture in the bowl. Work to break up the cubes with your hands until they are lightly coated with the flour mixture. Continue to use the bench scraper to cut the cubes into smaller pieces – the idea is that you are cutting each cube in half.

Switch to a pastry blender and begin to cut in the butter with one hand while turning the bowl with the other. It's important not to aim for the same spot at the bottom of the bowl with each movement, but to actually slice through butter every time. You'll need to clean the pastry blender every few turns of the bowl. Once most of the butter is incorporated use your fingers to fully break down the butter until it is no longer visible and you're working with small clusters of crumble. Be careful not to overwork the mixture. The crumble can be made up to 2 days in advance and stored in the fridge. When you're ready to assemble and bake the pie, preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Make the filling: In a large bowl, combine the sugar, lime zest and juice, tapioca starch and salt. Add the strawberries and toss with your hands until evenly distributed. Using a small offset spatula or the back of a spoon, evenly spread the cream cheese on the bottom of the pie shell. Brush the crimped edge with the beaten egg. Layer the strawberries on top of the cream cheese, being careful not to mound them in the center. Carefully cover the fruit with the crumble topping, leaving a small hole in the center of the pie to serve both as a steam vent for fruit as it cooks and as an indicator of when the pie is done. If the hole closes up during baking,



insert a knife to bust it open. Place the assembled pie on the parchment-lined baking sheet.

Transfer the baking sheet with the pie on it to the oven and bake for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, until the pie juices are beginning to bubble in the very center and the crumble topping is uniformly a deep golden color.

Remove the baking sheet from the oven, transfer the pie to a wire rack and cover with the pistachios. Let cool for 4 to 6 hours. When the pie is at room temperature, slice it into 6 to 8 pieces and serve.

Store leftover pie, well wrapped in plastic wrap or under a pie dome at room temperature for up to 2 days.

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OH, SO MANY PLACES TO HOST A PARTY!

By Chris Alexander

There's the backyard, a Metro Park, or a fancy schmancy restaurant. Many are the venues where you can entertain your favorite couple, the boss, or 100 of your BFFs. Springtime offers a calendar full of possible party dates—St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, graduation, baby or bridal shower, anniversary, or just happy-to-be-here day—you pick the occasion and make it special.

HERE ARE SOME GRAND AND GLORIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A CELEBRATION.

WILD SPOTS: The **Toledo Zoo** (pg. 41) is your place! Enjoy an intimate affair in the Captain's Room with beautiful views of the Aquarium and Amphitheater. Or bring the whole company for a picnic on the overlook of the Zoo's multi-species Africa! exhibit. Even book a wedding reception in the Malawi Event Center.

HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK: Share the fun of the **Mud Hens** (pg. 53) and Fifth Third Field when you host 18 to 54 guests in a party suite. This could be the ultimate treat for your family, friends, or employees. It can be as fancy and elegant as you want. Each suite includes 18 game day tickets.

BRING OUT THE ARTIST: At **Copper Moon** (pg. 31), art is something everyone can explore—you don't have to be a professional to play! Host a group and learn, explore, and create. Think of Copper Moon like a restaurant, but fused glass is on the menu and served up every day. Come create at the Moon!

BEADS: Speaking of creating, gather the gals and take a beading class at **Coyote Beads** (pg. 15) in Bowling Green. Make jewelry of all sorts, or even a glamorous bag. Your imagination is the limit.

TEA FOR TWO (AND MORE): Nothing says relax and enjoy like a lovely tea party. **Clara J's Tea Room** (pg. 22) is an intimate setting in a gracious historic home in uptown Maumee. They serve Proper Tea and gourmet lunch on an eclectic mix of fine china, making your gathering truly special.

LIGHT IT UP: Make candles in the new **River Front Candle Co.** in downtown Perrysburg. There's a wealth of scents and colors to choose from as you make this event one bright time!

CHEF ON TAP: Watch the gourmet delights come to the table as Chef Chris Nixon and crew elegantly entertain your party at an innovative and unexpected dining experience. **Element 112** (pg. 67) in Sylvania is a feast for body and spirit. Perfect for date nights, special occasions, and celebrations with family and friends.

NEW AND ELEVATED: Towering above the Maumee River in downtown Toledo, **The Heights**, is a rooftop bar with sweeping skyline views. They offer hand-crafted cocktails and cuisine.

WHEN CHILL KILLS

By Kathy Chirdon

While some foods absolutely require refrigeration, many do better at room temperature or in a root-cellar-like environment. Here's a list of fruits and vegetables that prefer non-refrigerated storage:

- Never store tomatoes in the refrigerator. Tomatoes begin to lose their flavor and texture when put in the fridge, turning mealy, mushy, and flavorless. Leave them right out on the counter where they can ripen to perfection.
- Potatoes, sweet potatoes: While potatoes are to be kept in a cool, dark place, the refrigerator is actually too cold. Low temperatures wreak havoc on potatoes' natural starches, affecting both their texture and flavor. Instead, store them in a paper or perforated bag away from sunlight and moisture.
- Keeping pungent alliums like onions, shallots and garlic in the refrigerator will not only impart their smell onto other foods, but it will also soften them over time. They need a cool, dry storage place with lots of air ventilation. Once cut, you can keep a well-wrapped onion in the fridge. The exceptions are spring onions and scallions, which should be refrigerated.
- Store whole melons on the counter. Once cut, leftovers can be stashed in the fridge.
- Squash: Hard winter varieties—acorn, spaghetti, butternut, Kabocha—do fine on the counter, so save that prime refrigerator real estate for other foods. Summer squashes like zucchini require refrigeration.
- Allow stone fruits—peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums and cherries—to ripen at room temperature. Once they yield a bit when pressed gently, put them in a crisper drawer.
- Pineapple will not ripen or get any sweeter after it is picked, according to Dole Fruit Hawaii. It's OK to leave it on the counter, but plan to eat it sooner rather than later.
- Bananas are a tropical fruit and have no natural defense against the cold in their cell walls. It's all right to put a ripe banana in the refrigerator for a few days, but the skin will turn black.



TOUTING SYLVANIA HISTORY

By Chris Alexander

It's history united! Heritage Sylvania, born in January, is a joining of all things historic in Sylvania. The Sylvania Area Historical Society, The Friends of the Lathrop House, and the Sylvania Historical Village merged, and will envision new ways to present history in Northwest Ohio.



Joining forces made all kinds of sense. "While the groups worked closely together, we still found at times we were competing for the same audiences and sometimes even hosting events on the same days," explains Andi Erbskorn, executive director of the Sylvania Historical Village and now Heritage Sylvania. "There was also a great deal of audience confusion as the public often didn't realize that we were separate organizations."

Creative Oxygen, a local marketing agency, facilitated a group that worked through the details to ensure a smooth transition. "It certainly is a benefit for us," says Liz Stover, treasurer of the former Historical Society. "We were an all-volunteer organization, and our volunteers were aging. We knew we had to plan for the future."

Sue McHugh, president of the Friends of the Lathrop House since its founding in 2000, adds, "This merger is a big step forward for all of us. It gives us a larger presence in the region. It also challenges us to present Sylvania's role in our regional and national history on a very intimate, close up level."

The new organization now oversees the Historical Village, a collection of 19th and early 20th century buildings, an archive of regional properties, and the 1850s Lathrop House, the only Underground Railroad site in Northwest Ohio open to the public. All the sites are located within a three-block area of downtown Sylvania.

"Each organization had a special piece of the puzzle. By bringing these pieces together, we say we are the bridge to the past and the path to the future. We plan

to offer a wide range of experiences from programs for toddlers and school field trips, to adult classes and workshops, to fun presentations and speakers. It's not the dusty history and museums of ages ago!" Ms. Erbskorn says.

For more information visit heritagesylvania.org.

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A SPECIAL WEDDING REGISTRY

By Laurie Wurth Pressel

When a bride registers at **Sheffield Road** in Perrysburg, she receives the personalized attention and quality that every bride deserves!

Owner Kelly Flanigan Nadaud takes time to uncover each bride's unique style and needs. She advises her on classic pieces that will bring her joy for a lifetime. And she even shows her how to set a table using those classic pieces but adding her own personal flair.



"I want to make sure each bride selects pieces that are versatile and practical, not items that she will put in a cabinet and never use," said Kelly.

Kelly recommends that every bride register for a high-quality flatware set; a classic table setting in white (8 or 12 place settings with a few additional plates); an everyday table setting in enamelware or melamine (unbreakable and ideal when children join the family); quality wine glasses and water goblets; and other essential items (pitchers, bowls, vases, picture frames) that the couple will need to build their home.

"We carry product lines like MacKenzie Childs, Juliska, Vietri, Simon Pearce, and Mariposa, that will last a lifetime and never go out of style," said Kelly.



Because she gets to know each bride, Kelly can then help guide wedding customers toward the items the bride most desires on her registry. She also develops long-term relationships with brides, informing them of sales and guiding them as they continue to build their households.

According to Kelly, a good wedding registry ensures that a bride receives gifts that she truly values. "It's something that's worth the thought, time and effort," she said.

"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."—Ranier Marie Rilke

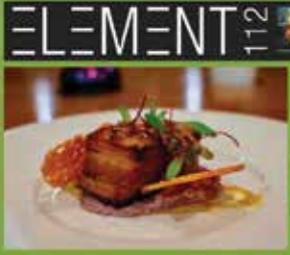
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By Kristie Bilger,
Downtown Fremont Inc.
(see pg. 35)

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What's Buzzin' this Spring

~ MARCH ~

2

If you're a wine enthusiast, attend the **Glass City Wine Festival** at the SeaGate Centre. Taste and purchase wine from your favorite Ohio wineries and enjoy entertainment, food booths and a wide variety of vendors. Your ticket includes a keepsake wine glass and wine tote. 1-4pm and 6-9pm. eriepromotions.com/glass-city-wine-festival

8

Motivational speaker Dr. Deitra Hickey will tackle topics like stress, work/life balance and the superwoman syndrome at the **Women's Empowerment Night Out** at the Valentine Theatre. She'll share her passion, humor and life strategies! Female lives singers will join her on stage, and there will be door prizes and gift bags with over \$50 in freebies for everyone! 7pm. Tickets required. valentinetheatre.com

9

Get ready for spring at the **Spring Festival of Crafts** sponsored by the **Toledo Craftsmans Guild**. Local artists and crafters will have hand-made items and spring decoration for sale. Stranahan Great Hall, 4645 Heatherdowns Blvd., Toledo. 9am-5pm. Free admission.

The **Sylvania Uncorked Chocolate and Wine Affair** features chocolate and food samplings from local vendors. Also includes a silent auction, mystery bags, dancing and a photo booth. 7-11pm. Sylvania Franciscan Life Center at Lourdes College, 6832 Convent Blvd. Tickets are \$40 per person; \$75 for couple. www.sa-fs.org

9

Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums in Fremont is sponsoring a panel of scholars and veterans to discuss the meaning of **Patriotism and Protest** and how it is used in our society. Contact Dustin McLochlin at 419-332-2081, ext. 230 or visit rbhayes.org.

9 or 16

Firenation offers a **Seasonal Glass Experience: Four-leaf Clover**. Register at firenation.com.



14-17

The circus is in town! Enjoy the **68th Annual Zenobia Shrine Circus** at the SeaGate Centre. One show on Thursday, two shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For show times and ticket information, visit toledo-seagate.com.

Visit **Grand Rapids** stores Cottage on the River and The Garden Gate for their **Spring Open House Days!**

15

Enjoy an evening of live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, auction, and cash bar at the **Bluegrass & Green Acres** event at the Steam Plant in downtown Toledo. The event benefits the Black Swamp Conservancy. Starts at 6:30pm. blackswamp.org

21

Lunch and Learn at **HeART Gallery** in the historic Toledo St. Paul's Lutheran Church, showcasing fiber artist Linda Henke's interpretation of Lenten texts, accompanied by 3D vessels by local artists. HeartGalleryAndStudios.com

22-24

Thinking of remodeling your home or sprucing up your landscape? Gather ideas and meet with local professionals at the **PRO Home Improvement and Garden Show** at the SeaGate Center. It's the largest show of its kind in North-west Ohio. toledo-seagate.com

23

Join the Masterworks Chorale for their **Classics Concert: Birdsong at the Lake**. The concert will feature music inspired by nature including Mozart's "Sparrow" Mass. 8pm. Epiphany Lutheran Church, 915 N. Reynolds Rd., Toledo. Adult tickets \$20/25, student tickets \$12. masterworkstoledo.com

23

Once you master the technique for frosting cookies with royal icing, you can make delightful cookies for every season and holiday. Learn how at the **Cookie Decorating Class** at the **Way Public Library** in Perrysburg. 10am. \$5. Registration required. waylibrary.info

28

You won't be the same after reading "Only Child," the heartbreaking, yet hopeful, novel about grief, healing and family after a school shooting. **Author Rhiannon Navin** will give a public lecture for the **Findlay Hancock County Public Library's Community Read** at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts in Findlay. 7pm. Tickets just \$10. marathoncenterarts.org



30

Attend the **Spring Crafters' Showcase** sponsored by the **Toledo Craftsmans Guild** at the Tam-O-Shanter Exhibition Center in Sylvania. Buy one-of-a-kind gifts for Mother's Day, graduation parties, and more. 10am-4pm. Free admission and parking.

What's Buzzin' this Spring

~ APRIL ~

1

The island is open to visitors and tourists! Head to **Put-in-Bay** and enjoy the quiet beauty of the islands after a long winter. April weekends are bonus weekends at many local spots including Put-in-Bay Resort and Conference Center, Victory Station Hotel, and Bay Lodging Resort! putinbay.com

4

The smash hit musical **Kinky Boots** is featured at the **Marathon Center for the Performing Arts** in Findlay. The winner of six Tony® Awards, **Kinky Boots** features a musical score written by Cindy Lauper and tells the story of a man who takes over his family's shoe factory and brings fresh ideas. 7:30pm. Tickets \$59-99. marathonarts.org

Go Hens! Baseball season is here! The **Toledo Mud Hens** open the 2019 season at Fifth Third field with a four-game series against Louisville, following by a three-game series against Indianapolis. mudhens.com



5

Don't miss the **Spring Open House at Firenation Glass**. Extended shopping hours and springy glass demo at 7pm. 716 Front St., Holland. 6-10pm. firenation.com

6

Find fun for the whole family at the **Sylvania Expo and Market** at Tam-O-Shanter in Sylvania from 9am-3pm. Back by popular demand, the traditional business expo will include craft booths and a farmers' market. Visit Carolyn Byersdorf of Decorating Den and say hi! Also, you'll find entertainment and a kids' zone with bouncy houses and Paw Patrol characters. Free.

6

Bench's Greenhouse & Nursery is hosting an **Indoor Farmer's Market**. Shop for locally-produced honey, wreaths, lotions, metal art, and more! 18063 W. State Rte. 105 in Elmore. benchsgreenhouse.com

6-7

The **Tree City Film Festival** in Sylvania gives local residents the chance to view films from around the world and to participate in film competitions. For event details, visit sylvaniaarts.org.

9-14

Don't miss one of the most powerful musicals of all times. Victor Hugo's **Les Miserables** is at the **Stranahan Theater**. With seven shows from Tuesday through Sunday, there's plenty of opportunity to catch this modern classic. For show times and ticket info, visit stranahantheater.com

11

Tea and Local History. Head to the **Wood County Museum** for the first program in their **2019 Tea Series: "Mighty Managers: A Super Family Story."** Learn about the remarkable members of the Farmer and Brandeberry families who managed the Wood County Home for 78 years. Reservations required. Cost is \$18 for members, \$23 for non-members. 2pm. woodcountyhistory.org

12-14

Don't miss the **Spring Open House at Packer Creek Pottery** in Genoa and Perrysburg! Their delightful pottery is sure to brighten your spring and summer. packercreekpottery.com

13

Toledo Sister Cities International Festival at the SeaGate Centre is a celebration of people and diverse cultures. Explore ethnic food, music, dance, art, and crafts from Toledo's 10 sister cities and more! Every half hour, there's an opportunity to learn a few words from a different language. toledosistercities.org

13 or 20

Firenation Glass offers a **Seasonal Glass Experience: Eggs**. Register at firenation.com.

19-20

Don't settle for an ordinary breakfast when you can have **Breakfast with the Bunny** at the **Toledo Zoo**. This family event includes an egg hunt, fun crafts and activities, and a buffet breakfast where little ones can have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. 9am-11pm. Tickets required. toledo-zoo.org

20

Did you know that President Rutherford B. Hayes started the White House tradition of the Easter egg roll? The **Easter Egg Roll** tradition continues every year at the **Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums** in Fremont. The free event for kids ages 3-10 includes prizes, treats, balloons, face painting, crafts and visits with the Easter Bunny. 2-3:30pm. rbhayes.org

23

The **Vienna Boys Choir**, one of the world's most renowned vocal ensembles for five centuries, is performing at the **Marathon Center for the Performing Arts** in Findlay. Come hear these heavenly voices! 8pm. Tickets range from \$25-49. marathoncenterarts.org

25

Lunch and Learn at **HeART Gallery** in the historic Toledo St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Celebrating unique paper designs for the home. HeartGalleryAndStudios.com

Get on board for spring plant shopping! The **2019 Garden Center Bus Tour** will pick up passengers in Findlay and Bowling Green. Sue Wolf of Wolf's Blooms & Berries serves as tour guide. Stops at four local greenhouses, including Wolf's Blooms & Berries, Benches Greenhouse, Creque's Greenhouse and Hoen's Garden Center. Light breakfast and lunch included. Cost \$30. wolfsbloomsandberries.com

What's Buzzin' this Spring

26-28

Don't miss the **Spring Open House** at **Wolf's Blooms & Berries** in Bowling Green. Come early in the season to get the best plant selections!

27-28

The **Ghost Town Crafts and Antiques Spring Festival** in Findlay offers fun for all ages! Craft and antique dealers inside and out. A 24-foot climbing wall and laser guns for kids. Food, beverages, music, and Wild West actors who will perform several times a day. Saturday, 9am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. 10630 County Rd. 40 in Findlay.

28

Lace up your running shoes for **The Mercy Health Glass City Marathon**. Events include the **Mercy Health Glass City Marathon**, **Owens Corning Half Marathon**, **Yark Subaru 5-Person Relay**, and **Savage 5K**. glasscitymarathon.org



~ MAY ~

1-5

Hundreds of beautiful handmade quilts will be on display at the **Sauder Village's 43rd Annual Quilt Show**. View the kaleidoscope of color and creativity, enjoy delicious food at the Barn Restaurant and Doughbox bakery, and check out a variety of vendors. Get all the details at saudervillage.org.



3-12

Whether you're a seasoned birder or just a newbie, plan to attend the **Biggest Week in American Birding** sponsored by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Northwest Ohio is "The Warbler Capital of the World" so immerse yourself in the spring songbird migration and experience some of the best birding in North America. The 10-day event is loaded with seminars, field trips, and birding hikes. biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

4

Take the movie experience to a new level. Watch **Stars Wars: A New Hope** on the big screen with live music provided by the **Toledo Symphony** at the Huntington Center. 8pm. Tickets required. toledosymphony.com

4-5

It's Springtime in Ohio! Shop for handmade items for your garden and home at this premiere arts and craft event at the **Hancock County Fairgrounds**. Features over 280 exhibitors from 8 states, delicious food, entertainment and outdoor exhibits. Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 11am-4pm. \$5 admission. cloudproductions.biz

9

It's opening day for the **Perrysburg Farmers Market**. Visit Perrysburg's historic downtown for locally-grown and produced annuals, perennials, herbs, baked goods, garden art, prepared foods, fruits and vegetables. Every Thursday, May 9 to October 10, 3-8pm.

11

Celebrate the beauty of nature in springtime at the **Schedel Gardens** in Elmore during their **Community Day Festival**. Enjoy demonstrations, hay rides, live music and arts in crafts. In lieu of admission, bring canned good items to donate to the Elmore Food Bank. Enjoy the gardens free of charge and help families in need. 10am-2pm rain or shine. 19255 W. Portage River South Rd., Elmore. schedel-gardens.org

11 or 18

Firenation offers a **Seasonal Glass Experience: Flower**. Register at firenation.com.

13

Celebrate **Mother's Day** at the **Toledo Zoo!** The zoo is offering free admission to all moms who visit with their children. Special Mother's Day activities will take place in Nature's Neighborhood throughout the day, such as planting colorful annuals and wildflowers to take home. toledo zoo.org

16-18

Three Course **Victorian Spring Tea** at **HeART Gallery** in historic downtown Toledo's St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Enjoy antique wedding photography. heartandgallerystudios.com

18

The **Antique Car Gathering at Sauder Village** will feature nearly 100 antique cars older than 1942 with some from the early 1900s! You'll get the chance to meet with the car owners to learn more about their vehicles and you'll even get the chance to take a ride in an antique car. 10am-5pm. saudervillage.org

27

The annual **Toledo Memorial Day Parade** will march through downtown Toledo. Admire the patriotic floats, flag displays, bands and more. 10am.

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