



# 2024 Miami County Community Guide

A special publication of

**Miami Valley Today** Miami Valley **Sunday News**



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# Events abound in county

**MIAMI COUNTY — From farmers markets to open cockpit biplane rides, festivals and everything in between, Miami County offers a variety of events for community members and visitors to the area to get together and connect. The following are events scheduled in the county, provided by the Miami County Visitors and Convention Bureau, Mainstreet Piqua, Troy Main Street, the Downtown Tipp City Partnership, WACO, the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, and more.**

*Events are subject to change. For more information, visit the bureau's website at [www.homegrowngreat.com](http://www.homegrowngreat.com).*

**Piqua Community Farmers Market, Piqua — Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. through Sept. 26**

The 2024 season of the Piqua Community Farmers Market kicked off on Thursday, May 23. The 2024 market rules and regulations, as well as the application, can be found at [www.piquafarmersmarket.com](http://www.piquafarmersmarket.com).

If you have any questions about the Piqua Community Farmers Market feel free to reach out to Mainstreet Piqua at 937-773-9355.

**The Troy Strawberry Festival, Troy downtown & levee — June 7-8, 2025**

The 2024 festival was held June 1-2 with the theme and logo "Blooming Berries!" The annual festival features entertainment on three stages, arts and craft vendors and lots of strawberry food delights. Stay up to date about the festival at <https://www.troystrawberryfest.com/>

**Jeep Cruise-in, downtown Tipp City — June 7, 2024, 5-9 p.m.**

This free cruise-in event featuring food trucks, vendors and raffles is hosted by Duck Duck Jeep Ohio and the Downtown Tipp City Partnership.

**Canal Music Fest with Draw the Line — Aerosmith Tribute Band, Tipp City Park — June 8, gates open at 5 p.m., music starts at 6 p.m.**

Draw the Line — Aerosmith Tribute Band, which is the officially endorsed Aerosmith tribute band that is originally from near the Boston, Massachusetts area. Michael Williams,

known as a finalist on The Voice and American Idol, and znels will also perform at this free concert sponsored by the Tipp City Area Arts Council. More information can be found online at [www.canalmusicfest.com](http://www.canalmusicfest.com).

**Vintage in the Village, downtown Tipp City — June 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Downtown Tipp City will come alive with shopping for vintage, antique and artisan treasures, along with a wide array of food trucks and activities. Visit [www.DowntownTippCity.org](http://www.DowntownTippCity.org) for more information.

**Rock Piqua!, Piqua — June 22, noon-10:30 p.m.**

The Rock Piqua Food Truck & Music Festival will be held from 1 p.m.-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22, in downtown Piqua, with the Rock 'n' Roll Car Show beginning at noon. This festival is an all-day event, and it will include food and drinks from multiple food trucks and live entertainment from local bands and cover bands.

This event is a collaboration between Mainstreet Piqua and the Piqua Arts Council.

**WACO, 1865 S. County Road 25-A, Troy, open cockpit biplane rides**

Kick off a summer weekend with an open-cockpit bi-plane ride. Ride gift certificates are available.

The Discover Ride is \$235 (plus surcharge and tax) for a 10-12 minute ride. This is for one or two people who sit side by side in front of the pilot. These rides are offered from April 1 through Nov. 1.

# Events abound in county

Call 937-335-9226 for more information or to schedule a ride or order a certificate at [www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org).

## **Fridays on Prouty Concert Series with Cleveland Keys, Troy — June 21, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Dueling Pianos is a unique act celebrating great pop favorites such as Sinatra, Cash, Queen, Elton John, Garth Brooks, Jimmy Buffet and many more. If playing your favorites makes you sing along with them, it will make their day. A dance floor will be installed for this special event so bring you favorite dance partner and your best dancing shoes.

These series of free concerts begins at 7:30 pm and requires no reservations. Be sure to bring a lawn chair to the park at the Northwest quad of the traffic circle in the center of downtown Troy. For more information please call 937-339-0457 or visit [www.TroyHayner.org](http://www.TroyHayner.org) for complete details.

## **Treasure Island Park Concert series with Crush Bon Jovi Experience, Troy — June 22 from 7:30-9 p.m.**

Bring a chair and enjoy this concert at Treasure Island Park. Crush Bon Jovi Experience “is America’s Number 1 Tribute to Bon Jovi,” will perform at Treasure Island Amphitheatre. This concert is presented by the city of Troy. Food trucks will be onsite, and alcohol will be available for purchase.

## **Fridays on Prouty Concert Series with Dulahan, Troy — June 28, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Dulahan is a Celtic-American band that pays homage to traditional Celtic harmonies, instrumentation and language styles. They write much of what they perform with great love and respect for the genre and style of traditional Celtic folk music. This five-piece band includes Kyle Aughe on guitar, bouzouki, banjo and harmonica; Leo Butler with Irish whistles, flutes and pipes; Mark Sandlin on mandolin; Dylan Aughe on percussion. This instrumentation as well as their three and four-part harmonies delivers the Celtic message.

## **Treasure Island Park Concert series with Dogs of Society: The Ultimate Elton Rock Tribute — July 4**

Celebrate Independence Day with an incredible ride through one of the most epic rock catalogs of the 1970s. This show is presented by The Troy Foundation, the City of Troy, and the Troy Rotary Club. Food trucks will begin selling food at Treasure Island Park starting at 6:30 p.m., and the annual fireworks display is scheduled for 10 p.m.

## **Lucky Lemonade Concert Series with Shannon Clark and the Sugar, Troy — July 9, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Hayner’s Lucky Lemonade Concert series honors exceptional regional musicians and current, original music. On Tuesday, July 9, the series will feature the Greenville-based band, made up of husband-and-wife team Shannon and Brittany Clark, their daughter Navie and cousin Joey Howard. Shannon writes most of what they perform. Their sound is a soulful Americana with moody, heartfelt lyrics about love, loss and making your way in this life. Shannon says his major influences are Bruce Springsteen, Fleetwood Mac, Glen Hansard, Ryan Adams and Emmy Lou Harris.

For more information please call 339-0457 or visit [www.TroyHayner.org](http://www.TroyHayner.org) for complete details.

[TroyHayner.org](http://www.TroyHayner.org) for complete details.

## **Troy Summer Skating Competition, Hobart Arena, Troy — July 11-14, 2024**

This figure and freestyle competition is part of the Future Champions Series and will host over 300 participants from all over the USA.

Visit [www.troyskatingclub.myshopify.com](http://www.troyskatingclub.myshopify.com) for more information.

## **Fridays on Prouty Concert Series with Ryan Mundy Band, Troy — July 12, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Ryan’s style combines country threads of sweet soulful life-longing lyrics with a red-hot modern country sound. Ryan Mundy is a hardworking Ohio original with a bright vision for his style. His latest recording is “Payin My Dues,” which speaks of his energy and determination.

## **Lucky Lemonade Concert Series with Solistic, Troy — July 16, 7:30-9 p.m.**

On Tuesday, July 16, the series will feature this wildly creative band hails from Dayton, Ohio and includes Khrys Blank and Eric Reith on percussion, Brad Denson on bass, Josh Johnson on drums, Eric Henry on guitar and Damien Dennis on keys. They call themselves a “multi-genre collective” of musicians from a variety of backgrounds and influences producing their own version of “funky original rock.”

## **Fridays on Prouty Concert Series with Noah Wotherspoon, Troy — July 19, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Wotherspoon started as a kid from Dayton, who with an affinity for the guitar, but by age 16 he was playing the Chicago Blues Fest and soon found himself touring America and headlining the world’s Blues Festivals. He is a stellar guitarist with a passionate command of blues-rock imbuing every note with well-honed skill.

## **Lucky Lemonade Concert Series with YarnSpinners, Troy — July 23, 7:30-9 p.m.**

On Tuesday, July 23, the series will feature this string band that blends old-time, folk and Americana with quality story telling. Kevin Serey fronts the band on guitar and vocals and writes most of the music they play.

Their 2019 album release “Tales From the Horseshoe Lounge”, garnered multiple awards. Alyssia Serey plays the upright bass and adds the deep percussive bass notes. Joe Weaver brings a bit of levity and good old American history with the washboard, jaw harp and kazoo. Jeremy Cox keeps the band true to the old-time style with the clawhammer banjo and guitar.

## **Lucky Lemonade Concert Series with Vinyl Vultures, Troy — July 30, 7:30-9 p.m.**

On Tuesday, July 30, the final Lucky Lemonade Concert of the season will feature the music of Boomers’ youth played by Vinyl Vultures so you can sing along and reminisce.

## **Fridays on Prouty with Driving Force Band, Troy — Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m.**

The Driving Force Band is a classic rock and party band comprised of seasoned musicians playing the best music of the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s. Throwing in a few country hits, 80’s

# Events abound in county

hits, and dance music, they strive to cover everyone's favorites. The band possesses tight 3 and 4-part harmony and works hard to replicate the songs as close to the original as possible. You can expect to hear some Journey, some Styx, and anything from the Eagles to Prince, to Keith Urban.

**Down a River Down a Beer, Piqua — Aug. 3 from 5:30 to 9 p.m.**

This event features around 100 different kinds of beer along with live music, a silent auction and food. "Always a GREAT time!"

This event will be located behind the Old Piqua Power Plant at 919 S. Main St., Piqua.

For more details visit [www.downariverdownabeer.com](http://www.downariverdownabeer.com)

**Treasure Island Park Concert series with Turn to Stone: A Tribute to ELO — Aug. 3**

Experience the nostalgia of a legendary rock band as Turn to Stone captures the magic of a 1970s ELO performance with a live string section and fantastic light show. You will instantly recognize classics such as "Don't Bring Me Down," "Sweet Talkin' Woman," and "Mr. Blue Sky."

**Fridays on Prouty with The Deron Bell Smooth Jazz Band, Troy — Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.**

The Deron Bell Smooth Jazz Band will perform the final concert of an exceptional Fridays on Prouty Concert series.

This outstanding band will feature a full rhythm section made up of drums, electronic percussion, bass, as well as electric guitar, two keyboard players, saxophone, flute and some amazing vocalists bringing a new level to what you know about smooth, funky jazz.

**Miami County Fair, Miami County Fairgrounds, 650 N. County Road 25-A, Troy — Aug. 9-15, 2024**

Celebrating Miami County's rich agricultural heritage, the Miami County Fair is a week-long event that consists of competitions, entertainment, harness racing, tractor pulls, art exhibits, games and rides and food.

Cows, goats, chickens, rabbits, horses, pigs, sheep and more will all be on display and waiting for that first blue ribbon or to be labeled the grand champion at the auction. The midway will be filled with rides, games of chance and fair favorites.

Call 937-335-7492 or visit [MiamiCountyOhioFair.com](http://MiamiCountyOhioFair.com) for more information.

**Donut Jam, Downtown Troy – Prouty Plaza, 1 W. Main St., Troy — Aug. 23 from 5-10:30 p.m.**

The Donut Jam offers an evening of music, drinks and fun to celebrate the Tour De Donut bicycle challenge.

**The Tour De Donut, Prouty Plaza 405 Public Square, Troy — Aug. 24, 2024**

Ohio's largest one-day cycling event, the Tour de Donut is

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# Events abound in county

a unique bicycle event, where the rider's ability to eat doughnuts is just as important as their ability to ride your bicycle fast. The event is a mass start timed ride where riders visit doughnut stops and eat doughnuts. For each doughnut, the rider eats during the ride (and keeps down) they have five minutes deducted from their ride time. There are prizes in several classes including the coveted golden Tour de Donut championship belt for the best adjusted "donut time." They also award the most doughnuts eaten in several classes, and for the speed freaks, they also award the fastest bike only time.

This ride is intended to be fun and includes all cyclists pro to amateur, triathletes, tourist, fitness riders, fun riders, or you can dust off that two-wheeler you found along the road, or in the back of the barn you are not going to want to miss this event.

## **Fort Rowdy Gathering, Community Park, Covington — Aug. 31-Sept 2, 2024**

Come join others in the peaceful setting of yesteryear. The depiction of a bustling, small trading village set in the late 1700s and early 1800s is what you step into when you enter the Covington Community Park the first weekend of October. Falling leaves and the smell of open fires lure you to our "Gathering" and all the homemade foods, arts and crafts will have you wanting to linger there for the weekend festivities. Authentic demonstrations, contests, games and entertainment throughout the two-day "Gathering" add up to fun and enjoyment for the whole family.

The 208-foot-long portable footbridge will carry visitors across the Stillwater River to the mountain man encampments and a true feeling of life of a by-gone era.

Call 937-473-5439 for more information.

## **Troy Porchfest, Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, 301 W. Main St., Troy — Sept. 24, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

Imagine about 40-plus bands in a hodgepodge of styles and genres playing throughout the Southwest Historic district on porches, in side yards and patios. Pick up a walkable map of the event and choose your favorite bands. Tour one concert after the other. There will be food trucks and artisan tents. Bring some bills to put in your favorite band's cookie jars.

## **Tipp City Mum Festival, City Park — Sept. 28-29**

At one time, Tipp City was known for growing a large variety of mums. The festival celebrates this heritage, and the hometown pride instilled in this tight community. A parade strolls down historic Main Street and directly into the community park where arts, crafts, games and entertainment are abundant.

Friday night cruise-in; Saturday the Mum Festival parade followed by festival activities at the City Park; Sunday festival activities. Live entertainment both Saturday and Sunday.

For further details, contact 937-387-6774 or visit [www.TippCityMumFestival.org](http://www.TippCityMumFestival.org).

## **Bradford Pumpkin Show, downtown Bradford, 115 N. Miami Ave., Bradford — Oct. 8-12, 2024**

Imagine everything pumpkin. That's the reigning flavor

for the month of October when the Bradford Pumpkin Show comes to town.

The midway features games, rides, crafts, concessions and merchandise. During this five-day event, enjoy one of the many parades that take place while indulging your taste buds with pumpkin ice cream, corn on the cob, and many other tasty treats.

## **Harvest Days, downtown Piqua — Oct. 12, noon to 6 p.m.**

Old-fashioned fall fun in downtown Piqua.

## **Fall Farm Fest, Lost Creek Reserve, Troy — Oct. 12-13**

The historic Knoop homestead at the Reserve will be transformed into a hub of activity. Over the two-day festival, thousands of people will join in on the fun to celebrate Miami County's agricultural heritage.

General admission is free but there are charges for pumpkins, pony rides and corn maze/shooter.

For more information, visit <https://www.miamicountyparks.com/fall-farm-fest>.

## **Hometown Halloween, downtown Troy — Oct. 26 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Festivities will begin with a costume contest and costume parade hosted by the Troy Noon Optimists in the parking lot of the Hobart Government building. Then, beginning at 10:00 a.m., participants will be able to trick or treat with downtown merchants.

## **Holiday Horse Parade, downtown Piqua 326 N. Main St., Piqua — Nov. 9, from 7-8 p.m.**

Visit downtown Piqua for this holiday event. Imagine horse-drawn carriages, hitches and riders, all outfitted with holiday lights, making their way down Main Street. Christmas banners and decorated street trees will create the backdrop for this family-friendly event.

## **Downtown Troy's Grand Illumination, Prouty Plaza, 405 Public Square — Nov. 29 from 5-8:30 p.m.**

Downtown Troy lights Up for the holidays during the Hometown Holiday Celebration and Grand Illumination. Children of all ages enjoy visits with Santa in the Santa House, carriage rides, holiday music, hot cocoa and refreshments, shopping at local merchants, and, of course, the lighting of the tree.

## **Christmas on the Green, downtown Piqua, 326 N. Main St, Piqua — Dec. 6, from 6-9 p.m.**

Community caroling, horse-drawn carriage rides, strolling characters, children's activities and live entertainment make this family-oriented holiday celebration a "must do" on many calendars. Stop in and visit downtown Piqua's many stores to choose the perfect gift for your loved one.

## **Downtown Piqua Holiday Parade, downtown Piqua, 326 N. Main St, Piqua — Dec. 7, 3 p.m.**

The tradition of celebrating the holiday season with an old-fashioned hometown parade is a long one in downtown Piqua. Families and friends, young and old, fill the streets for this festive event. After the parade kids can visit with Santa in the lobby of the Fort Piqua Plaza.



# Local Main Street organizations promote downtowns

Courtesy photo | Downtown Tipp City Partnership  
Elves Buddy and Jovie hosts a magical holiday celebration filled with treats, storytelling, and festive sing-alongs in downtown Tipp City, as part of the annual community tree lighting ceremony in November 2023.

**By Kathleen Leese**

For Miami Valley Today

**PIQUA** — Local mainstreet organizations have activities underway and planned throughout the year in Miami County, with something for everyone.

**Mainstreet Piqua** is one of the organizations getting ready to celebrate summer. Mainstreet Piqua is dedicated to developing economic development in downtown Piqua for residents and visitors.

Among the many activities and events sponsored by Mainstreet Piqua are the Taste of the Arts held in May which features local food and a backdrop of live music while enjoying storefront demonstrations.

The Piqua Farmers Market is held every Thursday, beginning May 23 through Sept. 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. and offers the opportunity for local residents and visitors to enjoy locally grown vegetables, baked goods and crafts in a hometown setting.

Third Thursday is held from June 20 through Aug. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. and features fun family activities with live music, food and fun.

Rock Piqua! and Rockin' Roll Car Show is set for Saturday, June 22, from noon until 10 p.m. and features a car show, live music and food and a time to celebrate all things Piqua.

Down The River, Down A Beer will be held on Saturday, Aug. 3, from 5:30

to 9 p.m. and the eighth annual event will feature 100 craft beers, river activities and a silent auction. Tickets will be on sale in early summer. Visit [www.mainstreetpiqua.com](http://www.mainstreetpiqua.com) for details.

The Rockin' River Drop is set for Saturday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m. when thousands of numbered ducks will take a trip down the Miami River and one of the ducks will make someone a lucky ducky winner of \$1,000. The ducks can be purchased at Mainstreet Piqua at 326 N. Main St. or go to [www.mainstreetpiqua.com](http://www.mainstreetpiqua.com). The ducks are \$5 each or 6 for \$25.

On Friday, Sept. 27, from 3 to 7 p.m., local residents can purchase a \$20 ticket and spend time visiting over 20 downtown businesses where they can enjoy a chocolate during the annual Chocolate Walk. Tickets will be on sale the day after Labor Day and can be purchased at Mainstreet Piqua.

The fun continues with Harvest Days on Saturday, Oct. 12, from noon to 6 p.m. in downtown Piqua featuring lots of fall activities.

The Downtown Piqua Horse Show, a popular event with all ages, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. It will include beautiful horse drawn carriages, riders, holiday lights, decorated street lights and lots of fun on Main Street in downtown Piqua.

Small Business Saturday is held on Saturday, Nov. 30, and helps to promote

local businesses.

Christmas on the Green will be held on Dec. 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. and will create a special atmosphere with horse drawn carriage rides, children's activities and entertainment in addition to the chance to visit local businesses.

The Downtown Piqua Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m. with lots of people filling the streets to celebrate the Christmas season and welcome Santa to Piqua. After the parade, children can share their wishes with Santa in the Fort Piqua Plaza lobby.

The Holly Jolly 5K/10K Run makes use of the Piqua PATH. Registrations for this event are available at [www.mainstreetpiqua.com](http://www.mainstreetpiqua.com) or sign up online at [www.cantstoprunningco.com](http://www.cantstoprunningco.com). Individuals can sign up the day of the event as well. Registration is held in the lobby of the Municipal Government Complex, 201 W. Water St.

Mainstreet Piqua offers resources for local businesses and has suggestions on where to eat and shop while in Piqua. Mainstreet Piqua is located at 326 N. Main St. in Piqua and their number is 937-773-9355.

**Troy Main Street** is a non-profit organization that focuses on the economic development of downtown Troy. They work to create great events in downtown Troy and make it a place people want to visit often.



Eamon Baird | Miami Valley Today

**Greg Hall and his llama Reepicheep entertain visitors at the Eclipse on the Square block party, on April 8, 2024, in downtown Troy, which was organized by Troy Main Street.**



Mike Ullery | For Miami Valley Today

**Emily Laughman of Scribbled Praises works on a painting during the May 2024 Mainstreet Piqua Downtown Taste of the Arts event.**

Among Troy Main Street events are the Courthouse Plaza Concerts, beginning on Friday, June 7, on the Miami County Courthouse Plaza and those continue through Friday, Sept. 27, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. They feature various artists and allow for a daytime break to enjoy talented musicians.

Fridays on Prouty Concerts, held in partnership with the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center, will be held on Friday, June 28, and Friday, Aug. 2, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Those wanting to attend are asked to bring a lawn chair, family and friends and settle back for a great way to start the weekend. The concerts are free and open to the public.

The Plein Air Artist Event will be held on Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. During that day, the Plein Air (Out of Doors) artists will go to different locations around Troy and will create art based on the various places and things in the downtown Troy area. Later that day, those in attendance can purchase the artwork to take home.

The Donut Jam, a popular Troy event, will take place on Friday, Aug. 23, from 5 to 10:30 p.m. in downtown Troy. It is held in conjunction with the Tour De Donut Bicycle Race. It offers the opportunity to listen to live music and participate in family friendly events.

Tour De Donut is held on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is called the "sweetest ride in Ohio." The event is open to the public and includes

family friendly events.

A Chocolate Walk will be held on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Troy public square. It is the eighth annual walk and purchasing a ticket will allow participants to get their chocolate and enjoy other chocolate themed items.

The Enchanted Second Saturday: Murder Mystery will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. which will allow participants to bring out their inner sleuth.

Hometown Halloween will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon in downtown Troy through a partnership between Troy Mainstreet and the Troy Noon Optimist Club. There will be a costume contest and trick or treating at local businesses.

The Grand Illumination, set for Friday, Nov. 29, from 5 to 8:30 p.m., will welcome the Christmas season to Troy at the annual Christmas tree lighting. Santa Claus will drop by for a visit and there will be horse drawn carriage rides as well as more activities.

Shop Small Saturday is held on Saturday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to noon and offers an opportunity for shoppers to enjoy visiting local merchants to support them and find some special Christmas gifts for friends and family.

Troy Main Street is located at 405 Public Square, Number 231, Troy, and can be contacted at 937-339-5455.

**The Downtown Tipp City Partnership** is a local group of interested busi-

ness owners, government officials and residents who are dedicated to preserving and promoting Tipp City.

Among their activities are the Jeep Cruise-In scheduled for Friday, June 7, from 5 to 9 p.m. which will bring up to 1,000 Jeeps and their owners to downtown Tipp City to show off their vehicles and compete for awards.

Vintage in the Village will be held on Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will give visitors an opportunity to enjoy vintage, antique and other craftsmanship throughout downtown Tipp City. Visitors will also have the opportunity to enjoy food trucks during the day.

Family Game Night is an opportunity to bring the family for a night of fun on Saturday, July 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. The event is free and includes game booths and the chance to win some prizes. The highlight of the night will be the Downtown Tipp City Partnership's drawing for a Beaches family vacation giveaway. The tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at any Downtown Tipp City Partnership event leading up to Family Game Night.

Among other activities planned are the Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting event scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23, from 5 to 9 p.m. in downtown Tipp City.

The Downtown Tipp City Partnership offices are located at 6 S. Third St., Tipp City; it can be reached at 937-667-0883.





# Take in the arts in Miami County

## Local art organizations inspire fun, creativity

Miami Valley Today file photo  
Members of the Bon Jovi tribute band, *Shot Through the Heart*, perform at the Tipp City Park during the June 2023 Canal Music Fest hosted by the Tipp City Area Arts Council.

**By Kathleen Leese**  
For Miami Valley Today

**PIQUA** — Miami County's creativity is harnessed into artistic opportunities thanks to the work of the Piqua Arts Council, Tipp City Area Arts Council and the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center.

The **Piqua Arts Council** (PAC), located at 427 N. Main St., Piqua, can be contacted at 937-773-9630 or through its website at <https://piquaartscouncil.org/>. The organization's hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where in addition to the office, it maintains a gallery where the public can see the work of professional and novice artists displayed for the public to enjoy.

Among the many activities of the Piqua Arts Council is Dancing with the Piqua Stars. This event is a local celebrity fundraiser that allows local well known individuals to get their feet dancing with special lessons

from dancing instructors before they take their skills to the next level in special performances that helps to raise money for PAC. A desert matinee and a dinner performance is part of the experience and evening.

In addition, the PAC offers art workshops such as the Barbara Jaenicke Pastel Workshop, which is being offered from July 22-25, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Apple Tree Gallery in Piqua.

PAC will offer Art 4 Everyone 4 Kids on Aug. 10, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the YWCA in Piqua, which will include a variety of activities and art for everyone.

On Sept. 5, PAC will sponsor the Piqua Fine Art Exhibition and Awards Reception from 6 to 9 p.m. at Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua. The 32nd annual exhibition will include awards. The exhibition will continue from Sept. 6-27 and will include the

work of over 200 artists from across Ohio. It will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, also at Apple Tree Gallery.

PAC will sponsor the Dan Young Oil Workshop Oct. 7-10, featuring professional painter Dan Young who will teach oil painting daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Apple Tree Gallery.

Among other events, PAC will sponsor Sounds of the Season on Dec. 7 at 5 p.m. The location will be announced at a later date. The event will feature performers in a special Christmas concert. The proceeds from this concert will be donated to a local Piqua charity.

The **Tipp City Area Arts Council** (TCAAC), which can be contacted at 937-543-5115 or via its website at <https://www.tippcityartscouncil.com/>, is a non-profit organization that

promotes the arts through a variety of activities and events.

Among their events is the 2024 Canal Music Fest which will be held on Saturday, June 8, at 6 p.m. at City Park in Tipp City and will feature Draw the Line - Aerosmith Tribute Band, The Voice and American Idol finalist Michael Williams and Tipp City native znels. The event is free and open to the public, but no coolers or backpacks are permitted and even furry friends on leashes are invited to attend. Vendors include Bolasko's Concessions, Buckeye Burgers, Daryls House of BBQ, Johnny Wontons, Kona Ice, La Grange Mexican, Raging Bull Pizza and Susie's Big Dipper. Skull Dollz Face Painters will also be there.

TCAAC will sponsor an Art Camp for students entering grades 1 through 5 from June 17-20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Monroe Grange, 4729

Submitted photo | Piqua Arts Council  
**Joshua and Nicole Landis take home the 2024 Mirror Ball Champions title and the Most Entertaining Award of the night at 13th annual Dancing with the Piqua Stars contest held in April 2024 at Romer's Piqua in Piqua.**



Submitted photo | The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center  
**A Portrait & Figure Study Group painting class led by Shirley Harbaugh at The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center in 2023.**



**Tri-County**  
**Board of Recovery & Mental Health Services**

**MIAMI | DARKE | SHELBY**

www.tcbmds.org | 937-335-7727  
 24/7 Tri-County Crisis Hotline 800-351-7347  
 Crisis Text Line text 4Hope to 741741  
**Know What to Do at tcbmds.org/find-help**  
*Thank you for your continued support of the Tri-County Mental Health and Recovery Levy*

AIM70364206

Peters Road, Tipp City. Registration is \$50 for residents and \$55 for non-residents.

TCAAC sponsors art and writing camps for young students and a quarter auction in addition to A Holiday Affair, which is part of Tipp City's Christmas celebration.

**Troy-Hayner Cultural Center**, located at 301 W. Main St., Troy, can be contacted at 937-339-0457 or via its website at [www.troy-hayner.org](http://www.troy-hayner.org). The Hayner Cultural Center is open Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is open on Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m.

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center offers a variety of events including Poetry at Hayner: A Mosaic of Voices on Saturday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m., featuring 10 poets reading during the first

hour as well as an open mic during the second hour and hors d'oeuvres, a wine bar and book sales. There is no admission charge.

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center will sponsor a Flower Power Garden Party on June 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. featuring a free jewelry making workshop with Connie Galey and vintage and antique jewelry for sale with the featured exhibit Flower Power: Flora in Fashion. The exhibit will be on display through June 30.

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center PorchFest returns Sept. 14 beginning at 10:30 a.m. and will feature live music and a food court and Artisan Tent Village. Details about locations of the various events throughout Troy that day as well as the closing concert at the Hayner Center are available by going to [www.troyhayner.org](http://www.troyhayner.org).

# County, state and national resources



Jordan Green | Miami Valley Today file photo

Representatives from local law enforcement agencies, as well as Troy Mayor Robin Oda, Miami County Commissioner Ted Mercer, Miami County Prosecutor Anthony Kendell, Miami County Sheriff Dave Duchak, Troy Chief of Police Shawn McKinney, and former Covington Chief of Police Lee Harmon, during the Miami County Safe Communities “Click It or Ticket” kick off event on May 24, 2022 to promote traffic safety.

- **Miami County Communication Center, 210 Marybill Drive, Troy; Emergency 911, Non-Emergency: 937-440-9911**

The Miami County Communication Center is the primary answering point for all 911 calls and the sole dispatch agency for all police, fire, and emergency medical services in Miami County. Staffing is 17 full-time dispatchers, five supervisors, and a director. The dispatchers and supervisors are all certified through APCO and Emergency Medical Dispatchers with CPR certification.

- **Animal Shelter, 1110 N. County Road 25A, Troy; 937-332-6919**

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays; and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Closed on Thursdays.

The Miami County Animal Shelter, a county operated agency, takes in stray and owner released (with proof of residency) dogs and cats in Miami County only, provides lost and found service, adopts out dogs and cats to new homes, sells dog licenses and enforces all state and county dog laws.

The shelter is dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Miami County; enforcing the Ohio Revised Code, leash, license, and dog cruelty laws in Miami County; finding permanent, caring homes for adoptable, homeless pets.

- **Auditor’s Office, Miami County Safety Building, 201 W. Main St., Troy; 937-440-5925**

The auditor is the county’s chief fiscal officer. It is his responsibility to account for the millions of dollars received each year by the county and to issue warrants (checks) in payment of all county obligations, including the distribution of tax dollars to the townships, villages, cities, school districts and library systems as well as other county agencies. The Auditor’s General Accounting Department is the watchdog over all county funds and maintains the official records of all receipts, disbursements and fund balances.

It is the auditor’s responsibility to serve as the paymaster for all county employees.

The auditor also distributes motor vehicle license fees, gasoline taxes, estate taxes, fines and local government funds in addition to real estate, personal property and manufactured home taxes.

- **Board of Elections, Miami County Courthouse, 215 W. Main St., Troy; 937-440-3900**

The Board of Elections is responsible for ensuring fair, accurate, and timely elections at primary, general, and special elections. These responsibilities include the assurance that adequate supplies of ballots and absentee voter materials are available for elections and that provisions are made for candidates to declare their candidacy based on the time frame established by

the Ohio Revised Code. The office also receives petitions for nominations, checks signatures and addresses for validity, and monitors campaign expenses to ensure compliance with the law.

Elections are administered in each county by a four-member board of elections which consists of two Republicans and two Democrats appointed by the Ohio Secretary of State at the recommendation of each county party. The board employs a director, who must be of the opposing political party of the chairman of the board of elections, and a deputy director, who must be of the political party of the chairman of the board.

- **Children’s Services Board, 510 W. Water St., Suite 210, Troy; 937-335-4103**

Investigation of concerns of abuse, neglect or dependency, information and referral, protective supervision and adoption services. Many other community and voluntary services are offered.

- **Courts, Safety Building, 210 W. Main St., Troy**

Common Pleas — The Miami County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, has jurisdiction to decide felony criminal cases, civil cases where the amount in controversy exceeds \$500, and domestic relations cases involving divorce, dissolution, and legal separation, occurring within Miami County.

Juvenile — Juvenile Court adminis-



Vance



Duchak



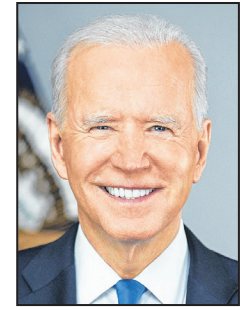
Carey



Oda



Lee



Biden



Westfall



Brown



Davidson



Yost



DeWine



Simmons



Husted



Powell



LaRose



Mercer



Huffman



Rogers

ters a variety of programs to serve court involved youth including the Miami County Juvenile Probation Department, West Central Juvenile Detention Center and West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center.

**Municipal Court** — In order to protect individual rights and provide for due process of law, guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the state of Ohio, the mission of the Miami County Municipal Court is to advance the fair and impartial administration of justice.

**Probate** — Probate Court is a division of the Court of Common Pleas and has jurisdiction over estates, guardian-ships, name changes, adoptions, civil commitments and marriage licenses.

**Clerk of Courts** — The Miami County Clerk of Courts is one of eight counties where the clerk maintains all official records of the Common Pleas Court, Municipal Court, and Auto Title. Duties include filing, docketing, indexing, and

preserving all court pleadings, and collection of all revenue related to court costs, bonds, fines, and forfeitures. The clerk of courts has the authority to issue writs to carry out court orders including summons, subpoenas, and warrants to arrest.

• **County Engineer, 2100 N. County Road 25-A, Troy; 937-440-5656**

The county engineer's office coordinates efforts with the Board of County Commissioners to carry out a variety of duties outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, including:

**Maintenance of county highways:** They are responsible for the maintenance and upgrade of the county highway system, including paving, bridge repair/replacement, traffic control, safety improvement projects, mowing, edge line and center line paint striping, and snow removal. Staff maintain 423.37 miles of roadway, 8,804 signs, 342 bridges, and 2,693 culverts, and provide engineering assistance to our 12 county townships, whose work-

forces maintain 268 miles of roadway.

**Drainage:** The office is responsible for roadside drainage, as well as maintenance of certain agricultural drainage infrastructure. This infrastructure includes 11.95 miles of open ditches, 6.74 miles of underground tile, and 0.42 miles of grass waterways.

**Mapping:** The Tax Map Department is responsible for creating, updating and organizing the tax maps for Miami County, as well as the creation of a current, accurate map of the County as a whole. The Department maintains 13,200 survey plats, 4,019 record plats, 2,873 tax maps, 745 aerial photos, and numerous other maps and atlases.

**Engineering/surveying:** Staff are responsible for the engineering and surveying associated with the design, coordination and inspection of county road and bridge-related construction projects, the review of proposed site development plans, and the processing of permits for work under-

taken in the road right-of-way.

- **Board of County Commissioners, Safety Building, 210 W. Main St., Troy; 937-440-5910**

The general responsibilities of the board are centered in the areas of financial management, management of county facilities, and personnel administration. The board exercises its statutory powers in budgeting, appropriating monies, levying taxes, issuing bonds and notes, and letting contracts for public works and services, among other responsibilities.

- **Department of Development, 510 W. Water St., Suite 120, Troy; 937-440-8121**

The Miami County Department of Development is here to help county residents access resources to expand their business, grow in the community, and navigate the required processes for development. The department includes:

- Building Regulations
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Planning and Zoning .

- **Emergency Management Agency, 510 W. Water St., Troy; 937-440-5460**

The Miami County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is a support agency that is authorized by the Ohio Revised Code to coordinate and administer countywide all-hazards emergency management and disaster preparedness functions for Miami County and its political subdivisions.

Through the EMA, disaster preparedness and public safety related emergency management activities are coordinated to serve and protect the public.

- **Job & Family Services, 2040 N. County Road 25-A, Troy; 937-440-3471**

The Miami County Department of Job & Family Services offers the following services such as: temporary cash assistance, supplemental nutritional assistance program, and Medicaid, subsidized child care, adult protection services, disability assistance and prevention, retention, and contingency services. The Child Support Division establishes paternity, enforces support orders, and collects and disburses child support in order to ensure children receive the financial and medical support they deserve.

- **Miami Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) 1695 Troy-Sidney Road, Troy; 937-335-7921**, Income based rental assistance.

- **Miami County Community Action**

**Council (CAC) 1695 Troy-Sidney Road, Troy; 937-335-7921.** HEAP/PIPP/intake and referral.

- **Miami County Public Health, 510 W. Water St., Troy; 937-573-3500**

The Miami County Public Health team works to prevent illness, promote health, and protect those who live, work, and visit the community.

- **Operations & Facilities, 209 W. Water St., Troy; 937-440-5998**

The Miami County Operations & Facilities Department oversees the Miami County Board of Commissioner's facilities, properties, utility and energy needs, fleet operations, risk programs and safety services. The department manages 16 buildings comprising approximately 600,000 square feet and various other non-occupied structures.

The department is dedicated to providing a clean, safe and comfortable environment for the visiting public and county personnel.

- **Prosecutor, 201 W. Main St., Second Floor, Troy; 937-440-5960**

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for:

- Prosecuting all adult criminal cases at the felony level
- Prosecuting all juvenile felony, misdemeanor, and traffic cases
- Serving as legal counsel for the Miami County Children's Services Board and prosecuting cases of child dependency, abuse, and neglect
- Enforcing the collection of delinquent real estate taxes in Miami County
- Representing all Miami County Government Offices, all Township Offices, Public School Boards, and Public Libraries in legal matters. The Prosecutor's Office also houses the Victim Witness Advocate Program
- Municipal Court matters are handled by a separate Prosecutor's Office.

For adult misdemeanor or traffic matters, contact the Municipal Court Prosecutor at 937-440-3928.

- **Sheriff's Office, 201 W. Main St., Troy; Administration/Records 937-440-6085**

The Miami County Sheriff has many responsibilities and in order to fulfill these responsibilities employs a wide range of personnel. The current staff at the sheriff's office numbers approximately 115 and is divided into three main divisions. The divisions consist of deputy sheriffs, corrections officers, and records division

personnel.

By law, the sheriff is in charge of the county jail and all persons confined therein. In Miami County, there are two jails. The primary jail is downtown at the Miami County Safety Building and is currently certified to house a maximum of 48 prisoners. The second jail (Miami County Incarceration Facility) is north of Troy and has the ability to house a maximum of 240 prisoners when fully funded and staffed. The Incarceration facility was reopened in July 2013 after being closed for 3 1/2 years due to budget constraints. Funding was approved to open three of four pods for a maximum of 120 minimum security male inmates and 60 minimum security female inmates.

The sheriff also helps maintain a secure court system by providing courtroom security. Section 311.07 of the Ohio Revised Code places the responsibility of the courtroom upon the sheriff, under the direction and control of the board of county commissioners.

The sheriff is also responsible for the service or "delivery" of legal documents in Miami County. This includes summonses, subpoenas, and lawsuits. The Sheriff also serves evictions, repossessions, and seizes and sells property as ordered by the court.

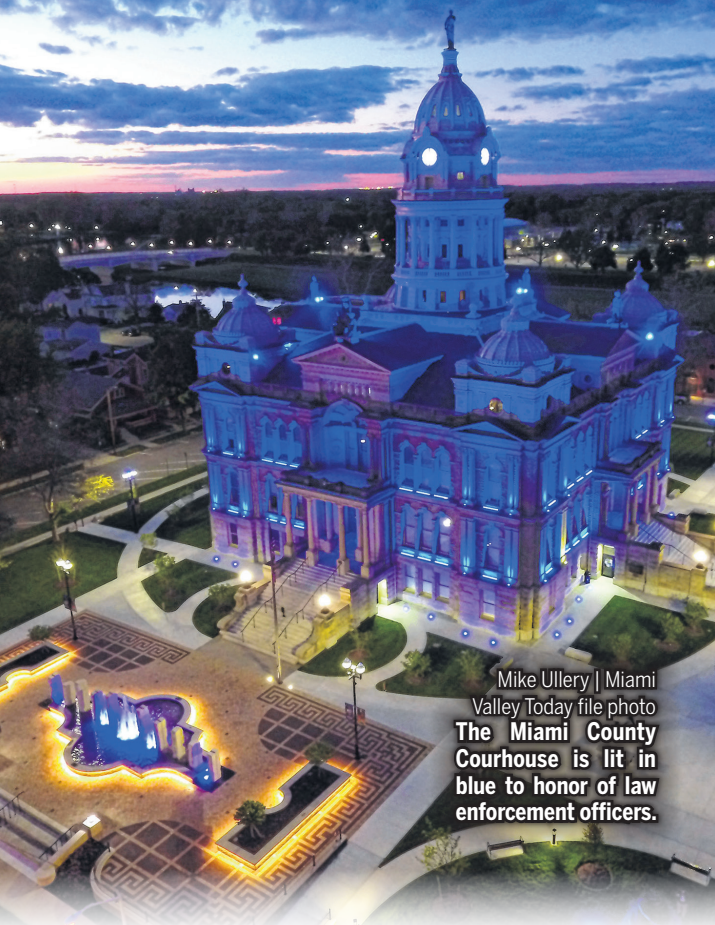
The sheriff's office also transports hundreds of prisoners each year. Deliveries are made to and from state institutions, holding facilities, courts, medical and mental health facilities, and extraditions are made from other states.

The patrol division has the responsibility to provide law enforcement services. Deputies handle calls and patrol the unincorporated areas. They also provide the primary law enforcement duties through agreements and contacts to the village of Bradford, village of Pleasant Hill, village of Laura, village of Fletcher, village of Casstown, Bethel Township, and the Miami County Park District. Deputies can also be called upon to assist other sheriffs in other counties during emergencies.

- **Treasurer, 201 W. Main St., Troy; 937-440-6045**

The county treasurer is elected to a four-year term and serves as Miami County's Chief Investment Officer, which includes being the banker, tax collector, and safe keeper of all public funds. Office of the Treasurer duties include but are not limited to:

- Receiving and investing all monies



Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today file photo  
**The Miami County Courthouse is lit in blue to honor of law enforcement officers.**



Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today file photo  
**Miami County Corrections Sgt. Jack Snyder monitors the array of computer screens and video monitors in the newly-remodeled jail control room at the Miami County Jail. Most of the design and construction of the improvements was done by Snyder and fellow county staff members, saving the taxpayers a large amount of money.**

collected by other county departments

- Providing the best return on investment in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code
- Serving as the cash manager and leader in fiscal management and accountability
- Billing and collection of real estate property tax on a semi annual basis.

**• Veterans' Services, 510 W. Water St., Troy; 937-440-8126**

Office offers the preparation of VA forms, documentation of claims and pertinent data, proper submission of VA claims, follow-up on claims, transportation to VA medical centers, electronic selective service registration and more.

**Elected officials:**

- Miami County Commissioners: Ted Mercer, Greg Simmons and Wade Westfall, 201 W. Main St., Troy, OH 45373 440-5910; commissioners@co.miami.oh.us
- Piqua Mayor Kris Lee, Ward 3, 201 W. Water St., Piqua, OH 45356, 937-414-0452, email: ward3comm@piquaoh.org.
- Troy Mayor Robin Oda, 100 S. Market St., Troy, OH 45373, 937-335-1725, email: mayor.robin.oda@troyohio.gov
- Tipp City Mayor Logan Rogers, 260 S. Garber Drive, Tipp City, OH 45371, email: rogersl@tippcity.net
- Miami County Sheriff Dave Duchak, 201 W. Main St., Troy, Ohio 45373; 937-

440-6085, Fax: 937-440-3524

- Mike DeWine, Ohio Governor, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215, 614-644-0813, Fax: 614-466-9354.
- Jon Husted, Ohio Lieutenant Governor, Vern Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43215, 614-644-0813, Fax: 614-466-9354.
- Frank LaRose, Secretary of State, 180 E. Broad St. 15th floor, Columbus, OH 53266-0418 877-767-6446, 614-466-2655.
- Congressman Mike Carey (R), District 15, 1433 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2015; Columbus District office, 140 E. Town St., Suite 1200, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-927-6902.
- Congressman Warren Davidson, 8th District, U.S. House of Representatives, 20 Dotcom, Troy, OH 45373. 937-339-1524. OH08WDIMA@mail.house.gov.
- Steve Huffman, 5th District, Ohio Senate, First Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215; 614-466-6247.
- Jena Powell, 80th District, House of Representatives, The Riffe Center, 77 High St. 11th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-466-8114, Fax: 614-719-3979.
- Keith Faber, State Auditor, 88 E. Broad St., 5th floor, Columbus, OH 43215, 800-282-0370 or 614-466-4514.
- Dave Yost, State Attorney General,

30 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43266, 614-466-4320.

- U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-2315.
- U.S. Sen. JD Vance, Senate Dirksen Building, B40, Suite C, Washington, D.C. 20510, 202-224-3353
- President Joe Biden, White House, Washington, D.C. 20500, 202-456-1111.

**County resources:**

- **Troy**  
troyohio.gov  
troyohiochamber.com  
troymainstreet.org
- **Piqua**  
piquaoh.org  
piquaareachamber.com  
mainstreetpiqua.com
- **Tipp City**  
tippcityohio.gov  
tippcitychamber.org  
downtowntippcity.org
- **Covington**  
covington-oh.gov
- **West Milton**  
westmiltonohio.gov
- **Laura**  
lauraohio.com
- **Pleasant Hill**  
pleasanthillohio.com
- **Miami County**  
co.miami.oh.us  
miamicountyparks.com



Courtesy photo | Wilma's Place  
**Volunteers with a young adult group from Valley Church helps stock the kitchen at Wilma's Place men's shelter in the Bethany Center in Piqua in November 2023.**



Sheryl Roadcap | Miami Valley Today  
**Habitat for Humanity ReStore, on West Main Street in Troy, celebrated its December 2023 home build with workers placing a new photo of that new Sidney home, owned by Bridget Lawson, left, in the store's entryway in March 2024.**

# Where to get help

- **Miami County Agencies**
- American Cancer Society — 888-ACS-OHIO (local services or events, patient navigator services, volunteers) — 800-ACS-2345 (cancer information, memorials and donations)
- American Red Cross Northern Miami Valley Chapter — 937-332-1414
- Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2 — 937-341-3000 or 800-258-7277
- ASPIRE (formerly ABLE), Upper Valley JVS — Adult Basic & Literacy Education — 937-778-1980, ext. 501 or fax 937-778-1958
- Bethany Center — 937-615-9762
- Bethel Hope — 937-845-1711
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Greater Miami Valley — 937-220-6850 or 800-301-7123
- CASA/GAL of Miami County Inc. — 937-335-0209
- Catholic Social Services — 937-223-7217/counseling; 800-300-2937, pregnancy counseling and adoption
- Child Care Choices — 937-667-1799
- (The) Clubhouse — 937-667-1069, ext. 1021
- Covington Outreach Association Inc. — 937-541-5581
- Community Housing — 937-332-0021 ext. 252
- Council on Rural Service Programs Inc. Early Childhood Department — 937-778-5220
- Council on Rural Service

- Programs Inc. of Piqua — 937-778-5220
- Gateway Youth Programs: Runaway and Homeless Youth Program — 800-351-7347, crisis phone. Miami County ACES — 937-937-548-8002
- Easter Seals Adult Day Services at Sunrise Center (Piqua) — 937-778-3680
- Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County Inc. — 937-339-6761, crisis hotline -800-351-7347
- OSU Extension, Miami County — 937-440-3945
- Friends in Serving Humanity (FISH) of Miami County:
  - Tipp City — 937-667-1587
  - Troy — 937-335-1440
  - Union Township — 937-698-3474
- G.I.V.E. Inc. Medical Supplier of Covington — 937-473-5195
- Goodwill Industries of the Miami Valley — 937-461-4800
- Habitat for Humanity of Miami County Ohio Inc. — 937-332-3763
- Health Department of Piqua - 937-778-2060
- Health Partners Free Clinic — 937-332-0894
- Meals on Wheels of Piqua — 937-615-0940
- Miami County Dental Clinic — 937-339-8656
- Miami County Public Health — 937-573-3500
- Ohio's Hospice of Miami County — 937-335-5191

- Pink Ribbon Girls — 877-269-5367
- Piqua Community Foundation — 937-615-9080
- Piqua Compassion Network — 937-778-8856
- Piqua Police Department — 937-778-2027
- Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development Program, Brain Wellness Center, 937-773-7630
- Riverside/Miami County Board of Developmental Disabilities — 937-440-3000
- Rural Development, U. S. Department of Agriculture — 937-393-1921
- St. Joseph's House — 937-335-5895
- St. Patrick Soup Kitchen — 937-335-7939
- St. Vincent de Paul Society — 937-335-2833, ext. 133
- Safehaven Inc. — 937-615-0126 or 800-564-5256
- Salvation Army of Piqua — 937-773-7563
- Senior Companion Program of Graceworks Lutheran Services — 937-534-7937
- Senior Independence — 937-498-4680 or 800-287-4680
- Senior Resource Connection — 937-228-3663 or 888-580-3663
- Social Security Administration District Office — 866-931-2520 or (800) 772-1213
- State of Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation — 937-372-4416 voice/TDD

- or 800-589-4416
- Tipp City Police Department — 937-667-3112
- Tipp City Salvation Army Service Unit — 937-667-6586
- Tipp City/Southern Miami County Emergency Food Pantry — 937-667-6586
- Tipp Monroe Community Services Inc. — 937-667-8631
- Tri-County Board of Recovery & Mental Health Services — 937-335-7727 or 800-589-2853
- Tri-County Suicide Prevention Coalition Inc. — 800-351-7347
- Troy Literacy Council Inc. — 937-660-3170
- Troy Milk Fund — 937-623-1952
- Troy Police Department — 937-339-7525
- Troy Recreation Association Inc. — 937-339-1923
- Troy Senior Citizens Center — 937-335-2810
- United Way of Miami County — 937-335-8410
- U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Discrimination Hotline — 800-669-9777
- Veterans' Service Center — 937-440-8126
- YMCAs of Miami County
  - Piqua Branch: 937-773-9622
  - Robnson Branch of Troy: 937-440-9622
  - Richard E. Hunt Activity Center (Piqua): 937-778-5247
- YWCA Piqua — 937-773-6626

Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today file photo  
**Piqua High School 2023 senior Libby Bradney decorates her parking space as Piqua City Schools' students prepare to begin classes following the Labor Day weekend.**



# Miami County schools

## **BRADFORD**

### **Bradford Exempted Village Schools**

760 Railroad Ave.  
 Bradford, OH 45308  
 Phone: 937-448-2770  
 Fax: 937-448-2493

## **COVINGTON**

### **Covington High School**

807 Chestnut St.  
 Covington, OH 45318  
 Phone: 937-473-3746  
 Fax: 937-473-3435

### **Covington Junior High**

807 Chestnut St., Suite B  
 Covington, OH 45318  
 Phone: 937-473-3746  
 Fax: 937-473-3685

### **Covington Elementary School**

807 Chestnut St., Suite B  
 Covington, OH 45318  
 Phone: 937-473-2252  
 Fax: 937-473-3685

## **PIQUA**

### **Piqua High School**

1 Indian Trail  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-6314  
 Fax: 937-778-4541

### **Piqua Junior High School**

1 Tomahawk Trail  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-778-2997

### **Piqua Central Intermediate**

807 Nicklin Ave.  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-2017  
 Fax: 937-778-2988

## **Springcreek Primary**

145 E. State Route 36  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-6540  
 Fax: 937-778-2995

## **Washington Primary**

800 N. Sunset Drive  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-8472  
 Fax: 937-778-2992

## **Piqua Catholic School**

503 W. North St.  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-1564

## **Piqua Christian School**

830 Covington Ave.  
 Piqua, OH 45356  
 Phone: 937-773-8627  
 FAX: 937-773-8633

## **TIPP CITY**

### **Tippecanoe High School**

615 E. Kessler-Cowlesville Road  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-667-8448

### **Tippecanoe Middle School**

555 N Hyatt St.  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-667-8454

### **LT Ball Intermediate School**

575 N. Hyatt St.  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-667-3719

### **Nevin Coppock Elementary School**

525 N. Hyatt St.  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-667-2275

### **Broadway Elementary School**

223 W. Broadway St.

Tipp City, OH 45371

Phone: 937-667-6216

## **TROY**

### **Troy High School**

151 W. Staunton Road  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6710  
 Fax: 937-332-6738

### **Troy Junior High School**

556 N. Adams St.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6720  
 Fax: 937-332-3812

### **Van Cleve 6th Grade Building**

617 E. Main St.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6780  
 Fax: 937-332-3951

### **Concord Elementary School**

3145 W. State Route 718  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6730  
 Fax: 937-332-3840

### **Cookson Elementary School**

921 Mystic Lane  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6740  
 Fax: 937-332-3980

### **Forest Elementary School**

413 E. Canal St.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6746  
 Fax: 937-332-3976

### **Heywood Elementary School**

260 S. Ridge Ave.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6750  
 Fax: 937-332-3891

## **Hook Elementary School**

729 Trade Square West  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6760  
 Fax: 937-332-3911

## **Kyle Elementary School**

501 S. Plum St.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-332-6770  
 Fax: 937-335-9585

## **Troy Christian Schools**

700 S. Dorset Road  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-339-5692

## **St. Patrick School**

420 E. Water St.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-339-3705  
 Fax: 937-339-1158

## **Miami Montessori School**

86 Troy Town Drive  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-339-0025

## **The Overfield School**

172 S Ridge Ave.  
 Troy, OH 45373  
 Phone: 937-339-5111

## **CASSTOWN**

### **Miami East Elementary**

4025 N. State Route 589  
 Casstown, OH 45312  
 Phone: 937-335-5439  
 Fax: 937-332-9488

### **Miami East Junior High School**

4025 N. State Route 589  
 Casstown, OH 45312  
 Phone: 937-335-5439  
 Fax: 937-332-7927



**Miami East High School**  
 3825 N. State Route 589  
 Casstown, OH 45312  
 Phone: 937-335-7070  
 Fax: 937-440-9581

**PLEASANT HILL  
 Newton Schools**  
 201 N. Long St.  
 Pleasant Hill, OH 45359  
 Phone: 937-676-2002  
 Fax: 937-676-2054

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP  
 Bethel High School**  
 7490 S. State Route 201  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-845-9487  
 Fax: 937-845-0592

**Bethel Middle School**  
 7490 S. State Route 201  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-845-9430  
 Fax: 937-845-0592

**Bethel Elementary School**  
 7490 S. State Route 201  
 Tipp City, OH 45371  
 Phone: 937-845-9439  
 Fax: 937-845-0592

**WEST MILTON  
 Milton-Union High School**  
 7640 Milton-Potsdam Road  
 West Milton, OH 45383  
 Phone: 937-884-7940  
 Fax: 937-884-7941

**Milton-Union Middle School**  
 7630 Milton-Potsdam Road  
 West Milton, OH 45383  
 Phone: 937-884-7930  
 Fax: 937-884-7931

**Milton-Union Elementary  
 School**  
 7620 Milton-Potsdam Road  
 West Milton, OH 45383  
 Phone: 937-884-7920  
 Fax: 937-884-7921

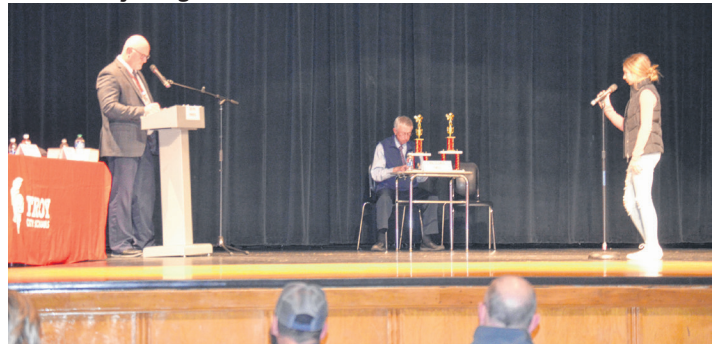
**SIDNEY  
 Lehman Catholic High School**  
 2400 St. Marys Ave.  
 Sidney, OH 45365  
 Phone: 937-498-1161  
 Fax: 937-492-9877

**Christian Academy Schools**  
 2151 W. Russell Road  
 Sidney, OH 45365  
 Phone: 937-492-7556  
 Fax: 937-492-5399



Amantha Garpiel | Miami Valley Today

Tippecanoe High School 2023 seniors Max Dunaway, left, and Gordon Haas, right, honor Carson Robbins, a senior who passed away in April, by bringing a cutout of Robbins to the traditional Senior Parade on Friday, May 19, for their last day of high school.



Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today file photo

Troy City Schools Superintendent Chris Piper, left, and host Mike Beamish, center, give eighth-grade Troy Junior High School student Maliah Shaw a word to spell during the 2023 Troy City Schools' City-Wide Spelling Bee held on Thursday, Jan. 5. Shaw was named runner-up in the Spelling Bee.



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OH7031635

Miami Valley Today file photo  
Guadalupe Oey-Langen  
prepares to solder parts  
during a soldering class  
hosted by the Troy-Miami  
County Public Library's  
Maker Lab in February  
2024.



# Local libraries offers programming, gathering space

## By Amantha Garpriel

For Miami Valley Today

MIAMI COUNTY — Local libraries in Miami County feature a variety of weekly and monthly programs to give residents enrichment and connection to their local communities.

### Piqua Public Library

Location: 116 W. High St., Piqua

Phone: 937-773-6753

Website: [www.piqualibrary.org](http://www.piqualibrary.org)

Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and closed on Sunday.

The Piqua Community Farmer's Market, organized by Mainstreet Piqua, is held in front of the Piqua Library every Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. It runs from May 23 through Sept. 26 and has numerous vendors with goods ranging from fresh produce to homemade crafts.

Weekly programs at the Piqua Public Library include:

- On Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m., the library hosts Story Time. Children ages 0-2 and their parents/guardians come spend time reading and listening to board books, music and movement. The program is hosted in the Children's Department and is a great chance to socialize and learn with your little ones.

- Every Thursday, from 10:30 to 11 a.m., children ages 3-5 and a parent or

guardian are invited to the Children's Department for Story Time, a program that includes stories, crafts and play time.

Both Story Time programs are suspended during Summer Reading Club. Children registered for Summer Reading Club can join Family Stories on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in the Children's Department.

\*For Children's Department programs that require registration, call 937-773-6753, ext. 210 or email [childrensdept@piqualibrary.org](mailto:childrensdept@piqualibrary.org).

Monthly programs include:

- Portals to Piqua's Past: The second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. adults are invited to learn about historical events that took place in Piqua. Led by Jim Oda, the group meets in the first floor Louis Room.

- The Page Turner's Book Club: Meets the second Thursday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. June's book is "Chicken Sisters" by KJ Dell'Antonia.

- The Mystery Mayhem Book Club: Meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Founder's Room on the second floor of the library. June's book is "And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie and July's book is "The Only One Left" by Riley Sager.

- Novels at Night with Angie Book

Club: This is a fun and relaxed reading group which meets every third Wednesday of the month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the first floor Louis Room. June's book is "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson. July's book is "The World Played Chess" by Robert Dugoni.

- Tech Time: the library hosts two monthly tech programs aimed to increase digital literacy amongst seniors in the community. The program meets on the second Friday and the fourth Wednesday.

- Adult Paint Night: the library is hosting Adult Paint Nights on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required for this adult-only program and space is limited to 10 participants.

Additional programs include:

- The summer reading program is returning starting on June 3 for all ages.

- The Miami County Park District will present a program and activities based on nature every Tuesday in June and July from 2 to 3 p.m.

For more programs and further information visit <https://www.piqualibrary.org/events>.

### Troy-Miami County Public Library

Location: 419 W. Main St., Troy

Phone: 937-339-0502

Website: [www.tmcpl.org](http://www.tmcpl.org)

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday,

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

- The Troy-Miami County Public Library's mission is to provide opportunities to enrich, empower, educate and entertain Miami County residents.

- Local History Library, 100 W. Main St., Troy. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Both TMCPL and the Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library host over 900 programs a year. The best place to find program information is via social media or through website: <https://www.tmcpl.org/libcal>

- The library established its new Maker Lab in 2023, which is located on the second floor of the Hobart Government Center, 510 W. Water St., Troy. The Maker Lab provides a free work space for library patrons to use, as well as access to a wide variety of machines, ranging from 3D printers, CNC routers and a laser engraver/cutter to sewing machines, large format paper printers and embroidery machines. For more information or reserve equipment, visit [www.tmcpl.org](http://www.tmcpl.org).

#### **Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library**

Location: 12 N. Main St., Pleasant Hill

Phone: 937-676-2731

Website: [www.tmcpl.org](http://www.tmcpl.org)

Hours: Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and closed on Sunday.

The Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library is a branch of the Troy-Miami County Library, is located in Pleasant Hill, and serves the village, as well as Newton Township.

The library offers study and meeting space, comput-

ers, limited print services, programming for all ages, and much more. Print, digital, and audiovisual materials are available, along with nontraditional items like cake pans and puzzles.

The DIY Center includes a Cricut machine, silk screen kit, button makers, 3D printer and sewing machines.

The Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library was established following a bequest by Pleasant Hill native Ellie Wampler who passed away in 1952. Wampler donated her home to be used as a public library with income for the operation of the library provided by funds generated by farmland also bequeathed by Wampler. Ohio law prevented the establishment of a new public library district and income from the farm was insufficient, so the Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library board contracted with the Troy-Miami County Public Library to establish the library, which opened in April 1957.

- Join the Oakes-Beitman Memorial Library on Monday at 10 a.m. for Summer Story Times June 10 through July 29 This is a story time for all ages and abilities. The library encourages all who attend to engage with books, songs and rhymes in whatever way they feel. This is a perfect bonding time for littles and their favorite adult to participate in! No registration is needed for this program. Recommended for ages 5 and under.

- Join the STEAM Lab Summer Adventure on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. from June 12 to August 7. Weekly adventures include hands-on experiments and projects that explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, or Math with Lisa! No registration is needed for this program. Perfect for elementary students in grades K-5.

- Tweencraft: Meets Wednesdays 3 to 4 p.m. from June 12 to July 31 with no meeting on June 19. Create, make, and laugh while building new friendships at the library this summer! All supplies will be provided. No registration is needed for this program. For school-aged kids and tweens in grades 3-8.

- Tech Help is available Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Patrons can bring in their tablet, phone or laptop for assistance. Registration is required. Register at <https://www.tmcpl.org/libcal>.

#### **Tipp City Public Library**

Location: 11 E. Main St., Tipp City

Phone: 937-667-3826

Website: [www.tippcitylibrary.org](http://www.tippcitylibrary.org)

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

The mission of the Tipp City Public Library is to preserve knowledge, provide information and enrich the community.

- Teens (Grades 6-12): Anime club meets once monthly. June's meeting will be on June 20 from 3:30-5 p.m.. Please see the website for future dates.

Dungeons & Dragons for Beginners Club meets monthly beginning in July. July's meeting will be held on July 20 from 1- 4 p.m.

- Adults (18+): Bridge for all skill levels every Monday starting at 1:00 p.m..

Mahjong every Tuesday starting at 1:00 p.m.

Yoga in the alley every Tuesday from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Bring Your Own Device Tech Help every Monday from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Tipp City Public Library also has four book

clubs that meet monthly.

Page Turners is a book club that covers a wide variety of topics but centers around important stories and themes to spark discussion. June's Page Turner's Book Club meets on June 24 from 7 - 8 p.m.

Mystery Lovers is a book club that focuses on thrilling mystery stories. June's Mystery Lovers meeting is on June 10 from 7 - 8 p.m..

Read Between the Wines is a seasonal summer book club that centers around light/fun reads. June's Read Between the Wines meets on June 12 from 7 - 8 p.m. - The newest book club is all about Fantasy and is called Flights of Fantasy. June's Flights of Fantasy meeting is on June 15 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- Children: Their children's programming rotates but we do offer seasonal story times. The summer story time schedule is as follows: Baby Cuddle Time on June 10, 24, July 8 and 22 from 10:30-11 a.m. Toddler Tales on June 12, 26, July 10 and 24 from 10:30-11:15 a.m. Preschool Storytime is on June 13, 27, July 11 and 25 from 10:30 -11:15 a.m.

#### **Milton-Union Public Library**

Location: 560 S. Main St., West Milton, Ohio

Phone: 937-698-5515

Website: [www.mupubliclibrary.org](http://www.mupubliclibrary.org)

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Milton-Union Public Library exists primarily to serve the library needs of the Milton-Union community and, more generally, those of all Ohio residents. The Library endeavors to provide free and equal access to its materials regardless of a library user's age, race, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, or social or political

views. Materials are selected for the collection on the basis of the informational, educational and entertainment interests and needs of the general library community. Every attempt is made to provide materials representing a variety of points of view. It is the Library's particular responsibility to safeguard the rights of its users to free expression and unrestricted access to ideas regardless of the partisan or doctrinal disapproval of others. Materials are excluded from the Library's collection only in the circumstance that the Board of Trustees has ruled them injurious to the Library's users.

**Monthly Programs:**

Every Tuesday, starting at 11a.m., Ms. Evelyn runs Tiny Tots for children under the age of 4 years old. During this program, toddlers will learn everything from colors and shapes to interacting with others through a combination of stories, crafts and activities.

Every Wednesday, starting at 10:30am, Ms. Evelyn runs Story Hour for children ages 4 and 5 years old. During Story Hour, children will learn new words and skills through a combination of songs and dance, stories, crafts, and etc.

The library currently has four monthly book clubs that

are geared for adults.

The Evening Book Club meets every second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The High Nooners Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month at 12 p.m.

Just a Little Inspiration Book Club meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

The Murder Mystery Book Club meets every first Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Copies of the chosen novels can be found and checked-out at the library in regular print, large print and audio books. These book clubs are open to the public and are always searching for new members.

Peter, the library's tech trainer, is at the library every Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m. to assist those who are having tech issues. He can help go over your device, the internet, any apps and other topics. Registration is preferred but walk-ins are always welcome.

Every third Thursday, starting at 6:30 p.m., Staci hosts Bingo for Books for adults. Adults are welcome to join to play a few rounds of Bingo for the chance to win a book! Registration is required to attend.

Every second Tuesday, starting at 6 p.m., Katie hosts Pinterest Craft of the Month

for adults. Every month, there will be a new craft for adults to create. All materials are provided and registration is required.

**Bradford Public Library**

Location: 138 E. Main St., Bradford

Phone: 937-448-2612

Website: [www.bradford-publiclibrary.org](http://www.bradford-publiclibrary.org)

Hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, closed; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

The Mission of the Bradford Public Library is to be a center of lifelong learning through our collection, technology and historical materials.

The Bradford Public Library provides information and resources in printed, audio, electronic, and visual formats along with computer and mobile device Internet and WiFi access, two study rooms, a historical room, community room, and special programs/events for patrons and the public throughout Darke and Miami counties and the Miami Valley region.

- Registrations for Summer Reading are available now in the library, for all ages and everyone can start reading as soon as they sign up. Registrations will be available through June 29.

- Preschool Story Hour: meets every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon. This program is for kids aged 3 to those not yet in Kindergarten. Registration is required, call or visit the library to sign up.

- Terrific Tuesdays for Preschoolers: meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 2 to 3 p.m. Join the library for a differently themed activity each month.

- Terrific Tuesdays for grades K-5: meets on the second Tuesday of each month

from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join the library for after school snacks and activities.

- Terrific Tuesdays for Teens: meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Join the library for after school snacks and activities.

- Terrific Tuesday Family Nights: meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. for a different themed activity each month.

- The Sisters in Spirit will meet the second and fourth Monday of each month from 10 to 11 a.m.

- Senior Citizens are welcome to attend the Bradford Senior Citizens club in the Science Fiction area of the library on the second and fourth Thursday to play cards and socialize from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

- Adults are invited to play Bingo on the third Thursday of every month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., free to play.

- The Nifty Needlers group meets on the first Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. This informal group is open to anyone who enjoys fiber arts of all kinds. Bring along your quilting, embroidery, knitting, crochet, cross stitch or other sewing projects for some inspiration and motivation. All ages are welcome!

**J.R. Clarke Public Library**

Address: 102 E. Spring St., Covington

Phone: 937-473-2226

Website: [www.jrclarkelibrary.org](http://www.jrclarkelibrary.org)

Email: [info@jrclarkelibrary.org](mailto:info@jrclarkelibrary.org)

Hours: Monday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sunday, closed.

The mission of the J. R. Clarke Public Library is to

Helping people  
live, work and  
play as full  
members of our  
community!





(937) 440-3000

[riversidedd.org](http://riversidedd.org)



Courtesy photo  
**Elijah Holt, son of Katie and Nik Holt, of Piqua, left, gets to pie Piqua City Schools Superintendent Dwayne Thompson in the face after his ticket was drawn at the Piqua Public Library's End of Summer Reading Carnival in August 2023.**

provide a broad range of library materials and services to meet the educational, cultural and recreational needs of the public and encourage lifelong learning within the community, according to the J. R. Clarke Public Library's website.

The J. R. Clarke Public Library has been serving the village of Covington and the local area since 1917. The J. R. Clarke Public Library of Covington was first known as the Covington-Newberry Township School and Public Library. Its first location was in the Newberry Township building located on the corner of Wright and Pearl Streets in Covington. It later moved to a room in the elementary school building, remaining there until 1950. The library later moved to 212 Walnut St. in Covington, which was made available by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Clarke, former Covington residents. Mr. Clarke was a former state librarian. After extensive remodeling, it was named the J. R. Clarke Public Library and was dedicated in 1950.

The J. R. Clarke Public Library provides an auditorium and meeting room for public and library use. For guidelines, visit [www.jrclarkelibrary.org](http://www.jrclarkelibrary.org) or call 937-473-2226.

The library has four Early Literacy Station computers, which are located in the children's area. The computers specialize in educational games and activities for preschool children, as well

as elementary school age children. The internet is not available on Early Literacy Stations.

The library also has an Ellison Die Cut Machine with 59 designs. The designs are available to the public. Bring in your paper, and a staff member will cut the designs for you. Please call ahead and allow a couple of days for the designs to be cut if you need a large quantity.

The J. R. Clarke Public Library will deliver and pick up books to homebound individuals who are unable to come to the library. This pertains primarily to elderly patrons living in the Covington area. If you would like to have books delivered to your home, you must call the library and make this request. The library reserves the right to limit this service to those individuals they are certain are unable to visit the library and live within the Covington area.

The staff of the J. R. Clarke Public Library also selects and delivers books to the Covington Elementary classrooms eight times during the school year. Teachers may email book requests to the library. The library will honor the requests as closely as possible. Teachers may request any number of books. Usually between 25 to 40 books are delivered to each classroom.

In regard to the library's microfilm

reader and printer, the library has the Miami County Census from 1820 through 1900 on microfilm. All Covington High School Yearbooks from 1950 to 2019 are available for use on the Microfilm Reader/Printer. The library has the Stillwater Valley Advertiser from July 1926 through December 2000 on microfilm. The microfilm reader/printer is available in the J.R. Clarke Library's local history/reference room.

- The J. R. Clarke Public Library offers a story time for children 3 to 5 years of age. Story time includes several activities geared for preschool aged children. It is an excellent way to prepare a preschool child for kindergarten. Their story time director has a degree in education and has taught several years in elementary school. Story Time is held on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m. This may vary depending on total enrollment. Registration is required. Please inquire at the desk for registration information, or call the library for more information at 937-473-2226.

The library has an additional wide variety of activities and services available to the Covington community from reading programs to wellness checks and free computer use. For more details, visit [www.jrclarkelibrary.org](http://www.jrclarkelibrary.org) or call 937-473-2226.

# History Library offers a blast from the past

TROY — The Troy Local History Library, a branch of the Troy-Miami County Public Library, serves over 3,000 people a year who looking for a connection to the past.

The Troy Local History Library maintains a variety of information on family history and historical documents from the Miami County area. The research library features books, maps, manuscripts, wills, land records, etc. An extensive microfilm/fiche catalog includes



county marriage records, census, birth, death, and many other records.

Visit [www.tmcpl.org](http://www.tmcpl.org) for more information, including links to the following genealogy and history database files: African American Heritage, Biography

Reference Bank, Fold3, Heritage Quest, Ohio Death Certificate Index (1913-1944), Ohio History Central|Online Encyclopedia, Ohio Memory Online Scrapbook, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

The library also offers in-person use of [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) at the library.

For more information on the Local History Library, call 937-335-4082.

The Local History Library is located at 100 W. Main St. Troy, Ohio.



## Museums share Miami County's story

Kathleen Leese | For Miami Valley Today  
A family enjoys a picnic at Johnston Farm and Indian Agency in April 2023 during the day of the total solar eclipse.

### By Amantha Garpiel

For Miami Valley Today

MIAMI COUNTY — Whether you'd like to learn more about the area's aviation history or take a deep dive into your family genealogy, there is something for you in Miami County.

The county's communities are home to plenty of rich history and places to learn about it. Museums like the Overfield Tavern Museum, the John Scott Garbry Museum, or the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency provide a window to the county's early days, showing visitors what life was like in the 19th century in this area.

The Museum of Troy History picks up where the Overfield Tavern Museum leaves off, depicting everyday life in Troy

from the mid-19th century to the present day.

The Miami Valley Veterans Museum shines a spotlight on the sacrifices made by those who have served, collecting the stories of local veterans. The museum's collection includes a variety of military artifacts, uniforms and more.

Those interested in tracing their family history can find a wealth of information in museums like the Tippecanoe Historical Museum, which houses an extensive collection of home and property records, obituaries and oral history recordings.

#### Overfield Tavern Museum

201 E. Water St., Troy

Phone: 937-335-4019

[www.overfieldtavernmuseum.com](http://www.overfieldtavernmuseum.com)

The Overfield is home to artifacts from

Troy's beginning. The oldest surviving building in Troy, it has served as a frontier tavern, church, school, courthouse and private residence.

Admission is \$3 per person. They have a new exhibit, "On the Banks of the Miami: The Creation of a Community," that recently opened. It explores a variety of themes in the early history of Troy and Miami County, including medicine and religion on the frontier, Native Americans and free persons of color. They also offer craft activities for children.

The museum's mission is to preserve the 1808 Overfield log tavern and its early-nineteenth-century collections and to educate the public about the frontier history of the region.

#### Museum of Troy History

124 E. Water St., Troy  
Phone: 937-339-5155  
Open Saturday and Sunday:  
1 to 5 p.m. from April through  
December and by appoint-  
ment.

[www.museumoftroyhistory.org](http://www.museumoftroyhistory.org)

The museum promotes edu-  
cation about the county from  
1850 to the present by provid-  
ing artifacts from Troy's past.

A rich history of Troy, Ohio  
is housed in the restored  
pre-Civil War house of John  
Kitchen. Rotating displays  
depict lifestyle themes in Troy  
and Miami County between  
1850 and the present.

The mission of the Museum  
of Troy History is to promote  
education about the history of  
Troy, Ohio and Miami County,  
Ohio from 1850 to the present  
by providing a museum to col-  
lect and display appropriate  
artifacts and present general  
public and youth oriented pro-  
grams in cooperation with the  
Troy Historical Society.

#### **WACO Air Museum**

1865 S. County Road 25A,  
Troy

Phone: 937-335-9226

[www.wacoairmuseum.org](http://www.wacoairmuseum.org)

WACO's mission statement:  
Preserve the past of aviation,  
Inspire the future of aviation,  
and Be an asset to the com-  
munity.

Hours of operation: Week-  
days from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
closed on Wednesday and Sat-  
urdays and Sundays from noon  
to 5 p.m.

Cost: Adults \$8, Seniors and  
Military \$6, Students \$4, and  
ages 4 and under are free

WACO features two hangars  
of vintage WACO aircraft  
including the 1929 ATO  
"Taperwing" which won the  
1936 Paris Air Show, the  
Model 9 "Miss McKeesport",  
which was one of the first  
aircraft used to fly airmail in  
the U.S., a UMF3 which per-  
formed daily at King's Island's  
Red Baron and Snoopy show  
in the 1970's and 1980's, and

so much more! The museum  
features history of WACO Air-  
craft Co., founded by Clayton  
Brukner.

#### **Troy-Hayner Cultural Center**

301 W. Main St., Troy

Phone: 937-339-0457

Hours of operations:

Mondays, 5 to 9 p.m.; Tues-  
days through Thursdays, 9  
a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Sat-  
urdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and  
Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

[www.troyhayner.org](http://www.troyhayner.org)

Offers cultural programs,  
displays, tours, meeting facili-  
ties and more. Formerly the  
Hayner family mansion and  
Troy-Miami County Public  
Library.

The museum usually has  
about five or six exhibits  
throughout the year. These  
are usually art exhibits but  
can also be historic in nature.  
Currently an exhibit is going  
up called: Flower Power: Flora  
in Fashion; this is curated by  
Gayle Strege of Ohio State  
University Historic Costume  
and Textile Collection. They  
also have a whiskey museum.  
Look at this page for a sneak  
peek: <https://www.troyhayner.org/distillery-museum.html>

The money for this house  
came from Mary Jane Harter's  
family business which was  
Harter Medicine and Wil-  
liam Hayner's family business  
which was Hayner Whiskey.  
The Whiskey museum tells a  
bit about the history.

The mission of the Troy-  
Hayner Cultural Center is to  
preserve and maintain the  
Hayner Mansion as a cultural  
resource center for the present  
and as an historical legacy for  
future generations of the com-  
munity of Troy, Ohio.

#### **Miami Valley Veterans Museum**

2245 S. County Road 25A,  
Troy

Phone: 937-332-8852

<https://www.miamivalleyvet-eransmuseum.org/>

The museum's mission is to

Mike Ullery | For Miami Valley Today  
**Sidewalk chalk at WACO Air Museum and Airfield during its Eyes  
on the Skies event for the total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8.**



honor, preserve and perpetu-  
ate the memory and dignity  
of the men and women who  
have served in the U.S. Armed  
Forces, Coast Guard and  
Wartime Merchant Machines.  
The museum includes displays  
from all eras and also has a  
piece of the wreckage from  
9-11 available for viewing.

The Miami Valley Veterans  
Museum's normal business  
hours are Monday, Wednesday,  
and Thursday from 10 a.m. to  
2 p.m. All other hours are by  
appointment.

The museum serves Miami,  
Darke, Shelby, Champaign,  
Clark, Greene, and Montgom-  
ery counties telling the stories  
of the men and women who  
served our nation honorably.

The Museum features  
artifacts, photos, letters and  
diaries from Miami Valley  
veterans and their families

throughout our country's his-  
tory. The Museum is a 501(c)  
(3) non-profit and is staffed  
entirely by volunteers. You can  
join us as a member, donor,  
sponsor, or volunteer in our  
mission to preserve the legacy  
and history of Miami Valley  
Veterans in all historical peri-  
ods.

Those who are interested in  
touring the museum in groups  
of 10 or more after normal  
business hours are encour-  
aged to contact Amy Cost at  
937-332-8852 to arrange tour  
times and dates. There are no  
charges for admission, but the  
museum greatly appreciates  
any donations.

The museum's collection is  
being constantly updated regu-  
larly. They receive donations  
of artifacts, and sometimes  
personal items from veterans  
or their families regularly.



Eamon Baird | Miami Valley Today  
The Miami Valley Veterans  
Museum is located at 2245 S.  
County Road 25A in Troy.

Depending on the significance of the artifact it may go on display after an assessment process has taken place.

On the first Wednesday of every month, the museum features a coffee and doughnut gathering and an informative program from 9 to 11 a.m.

#### **Johnston Farm and Indian Agency**

9845 Hardin Road, Piqua  
Phone: 937-773-2522  
[www.johnstonfarmohio.com](http://www.johnstonfarmohio.com)

Admission prices:  
\$10 for Adults, \$9 for Seniors/AAA/Military, \$5 for students, ages 6-12. Children 5 and under are free, as are OHC and Friend's Members

The site includes Johnston Farm, a major trading site during the early 19th century, a history of Ohio farming museum and a portion of the Miami-Erie Canal. Open for groups by appointment April-May and September-October.

From June through August,

the site is open Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. September through October and April through May, they are open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment only - visitors need to call ahead to schedule a time to visit.

The site is closed November through March, except for special programming.

When the site is open, guests can visit the Ohio Frontier and Canal Museum, tour the Johnston home and outbuildings, and ride a canal boat on a restored section of the Miami and Erie Canal. Staff and volunteers are on hand to answer questions on what life was like on the Ohio Frontier from roughly 1750 to 1850. The museum exhibits the restored Johnston home to showcase this time period.

The Johnston Farm & Indian Agency is an Ohio History

Connection site that is managed by the Johnston Farm Council, a non-profit organization. Their mission involves helping guests grow their knowledge and appreciation of local and regional history and to understand the broader cultural environment of which it is a part.

#### **Tippecanoe Historical Museum**

20 N. Third St., Tipp City  
Phone: 937-667-4092  
[www.tippecanoehistoricalso-ciety.org](http://www.tippecanoehistoricalso-ciety.org)

Displays include artifacts from local families, schools and businesses. The museum is also home to local history and genealogy archives and oral history recordings.

#### **Union Township Historical Museum and Quaker Research Center**

47 N. Main St., West Milton  
Phone: 937-698-3820

Offers displays on township history, archives and research collection on Quaker history and more.

#### **Pleasant Hill History Center**

8 E. Monument St., Pleasant Hill.

[www.pleasanthillhistorycenter.com](http://www.pleasanthillhistorycenter.com)

Email: [PleasantHillHC@yahoo.com](mailto:PleasantHillHC@yahoo.com)

Hours of Operation: Every Monday from 3 to 7 p.m.

Displays include school related artifacts, memorabilia of the village's local stores, and a Teflon coated muffin tin from Teflon inventor Roy Plunkett who attended Newton High School.

#### **Covington-Newberry Historical Museum**

known as the Fort Rowdy Museum  
101 E. Spring St., Covington

Phone: 937-216-2477  
[www.homegrowngreat.com/attractions/fort-rowdy-museum](http://www.homegrowngreat.com/attractions/fort-rowdy-museum)

Items are on display that are related to the history of Covington and Newberry

Township. The 1849 schoolhouse was formerly home to a village council, a militia unit and a fire department. Open by appointment and during special events. Admission is free and donations are accepted.

#### **A.B. Graham Memorial Center**

8025 E. US Route 36,  
Conover  
Phone: 937-368-3700  
<http://www.abgraham.org/>  
Museum and exhibit center honoring 4-H founder A.B. Graham.

#### **Elizabeth Township Historical Society and Museum**

5760 E. Walnut Grove Road, Troy  
Phone: 937-205-2072  
Email: [ETHS2007@gmail.com](mailto:ETHS2007@gmail.com)

[www.elizabethtownshipohio.com/cc\\_historical\\_museum#historical](http://www.elizabethtownshipohio.com/cc_historical_museum#historical)

Hours are by appointment only.

The Elizabeth Township Historical Society Museum is home to a permanent collection of Elizabeth Township family histories, local history books, artifacts, military photos and uniforms. It also houses Elizabeth School artifacts, photos, school annuals, class composites, and more.

ETHS fosters and promotes interest in the history and cultural heritage of Elizabeth Township, Ohio's first Rural Historic District on the National Registry of Historic Places. Housed in the Elizabeth Township Community Center, the ETHS Museum preserves and displays township artifacts and memorabilia, as well as holding genealogical information, historic documents, photos and the oral histories of its people. Museum hours Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours and genealogical assistance arranged by appointment.



# Float Troy opens camping registration



Courtesy photo | Betsy Blackmore  
Kelsey Ernsthause and her sons Jake and Ben Ernsthause paddle to their Float Troy tent located on the Great Miami River along the levee near Treasure Island Park in Troy.

## By Rena Ryan

For Miami Valley Today

TROY — Those interested in a unique camping experience should come to Troy for a new adventure with Float Troy in the historic area along the levee on the Great Miami River.

Participants can enjoy a relaxing day and evening floating on the river, and then let the Great Miami River rock you to sleep.

Float Troy was created in 2018 by Mayor Mike Beamish to create a unique experience that would not only draw people from Troy but also bring visitors to the area. The tents are located on the river at Treasure Island Park.

“It’s been very well received,” said city of Troy Assistant Director of Recreation Carrie Slater.

“The weekends tend to fill up first, then the weekdays are usually filled.”

Float Troy, which offers nine floating tents that are available for overnight rental throughout summer nights, has recently opened camping registration. Campers can rent a tent for \$95 per night; this includes a raft or kayak and paddle for traveling to and from the shore and life jackets. Up to four people can stay in each tent and restrooms are available 24 hours a day.

Tents can accommodate four adults, or two adults and two children. Pets are asked to stay home. According to the city of Troy, registration fills up quickly for Float Troy’s unique camping experience, so those interested should make reservations soon.

Reservations must be canceled seven days prior for a full refund, minus a \$10 per tent cancellation fee.

“We typically recommend two adults and two children,” Slater said. “Four adults can definitely fit, but it may be a tight squeeze.”

The recreation department began renting the floating tents in summer 2020 and have continued each year since.

Slater said Float Troy has been a unique attraction that has brought visitors from across the country.

“The Float Troy program has definitely attracted many families from outside the area,” she said.

Betsy Blackmore, of Troy, said her father booked the experience for himself, her mother, all her siblings, and their children. They rented a

total of four floating tents.

“We had an awesome time!” Blackmore said.

Blackmore’s father is a duck hunter and very familiar with the river.

“My dad was like our private tour guide and he had our whole evening planned,” she said.

They put their stuff in their tents and were immediately off down the river, Blackmore said. They set up a place to eat and let the children play. They stayed out until dark.

“Overall it was a really fun experience and the kids had a blast. I would do it again for sure, but next time I would bring some kind of padding for the floor of the tent,” she noted.

The writer is a contributor to Miami Valley Today.



# Tour de Donut to roll into Troy in August

Miami Valley Today file photo  
After a short delay due to a train, over 1,700 riders participate in the annual Tour De Donut bicycle race in downtown Troy in August 2023.

TROY — Tour de Donut, the unique, donut-based bicycle event that rides through Troy, is set to return for its 15th annual race this August.

The Tour de Donut will be held in downtown Troy, along with other race-day events, on Saturday morning, Aug. 24. The Donut Jam, a downtown, pre-Tour de Donut event, will be held the evening before on Friday, Aug. 23.

The Tour de Donut is a scenic, bicycle race that begins and ends in downtown Troy. The difference between this bike race and others, is that throughout the event, contestants will have the opportunity to have some time shaved off if they stop and eat donuts. For each donut eaten, five minutes will be deducted from the racers finishing time. Meaning that to win, you don't necessarily need to be the fastest, you just need to eat more than the next guy and keep the donuts down and then keep going.

Donuts are available at stations placed periodically throughout the race with the ability to eat three donuts per station. The number of stations depends on the length of the race the participants choose to sign up for.

Registration for the event is ongoing and can be done at [www.thetourdedonut.com](http://www.thetourdedonut.com) by clicking the sign-up button located on the top right of the webpage.

Contestants can sign up for a variety of race lengths and with different vehicle categories including tandem bicycles, e-bikes, ElliptiGO's, and recumbent bikes.

Registration is \$50, plus a \$5.53 sign-up fee, but increases to \$55 after July 29, and then to \$60 for week-of registration. For riders under the age of 18, registration is \$35 until July 29, and then increases to \$40 after that. Slight variations in pricing can be expected based on race length. For exact details on pricing, please see [thetourdedonut.com](http://thetourdedonut.com) under the event info tab. Participants must register by August 10 to be guaranteed a T-shirt.

Four race lengths are available.

- Donut Hole: A 9.72-mile mass start event that features an out and back along the scenic Great Miami River Trail bike path. This race features one donut stop -at The Glazer- prior to finishing.

- Mini Donut: A 19.7-mile mass start event that takes riders through the countryside with a donut stop and riders will have a chance at The Glazer prior to finishing.

- Full Donut: A 34.4-mile mass start event that takes riders through the countryside with a donut stop and riders will have a chance at The Glazer prior to finishing.

- Double D: A 58.5-mile mass start event that takes riders through the countryside with a donut stop and riders will have a chance at The Glazer prior to finishing.

The Tour de Donut also features a free kid's event at 8 a.m. on race day. Registration begins at 7 a.m. on race day at the start/finish line. Kids aged 2-12 are eligible to participate and will compete in their age groups with races ranging from half a block for younger kids to two blocks for older children. The first 120 to register will receive a T-shirt and all who participate will get a finisher's medal along with all you can eat donuts and milk.

And that weekend of biking festivities isn't just for the riders. The Donut Jam, which begins Friday, Aug. 23, and continues race day, offers a wide array of activities for the community and riders alike.

Donut Jam attendees can enjoy live entertainment, a drink in the DORA, take part in children's activities, and are encouraged to eat at one of the local restaurants around the square and support Troy's local businesses. The Donut Jam activities, featuring live music, food trucks and kid's events, begins at 5 p.m. and goes until 10:30 p.m.

Registration is open now; to sign up, visit <https://www.thetourdedonut.com/>

# Piqua Community Farmers Market returns May 23

The Piqua Community Farmers Market, held in downtown Piqua in front of the Piqua Public Library on Thursdays, returns on May 23. The market is held on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. through September. The farmer's market features several vendors selling produce, plants, baked goods, food products, and crafts.

Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today, file photo

## By Rena Ryan

For Miami Valley Today

PIQUA — The Piqua Community Farmers Market is the place to be on Thursdays nights from 3 - 6 p. The 2024 farmers market will open on May 23 and will run through Sept. 26, with the exception that they will be closed on the Thursday of the fourth of July.

Visitors to the weekly market will find multiple produce vendors providing tomatoes, squash, microgreens, green beans and much more. There will be a meat vendor offering beef and pork and vendors offering kettle corn, lots of baked goods such as pies and donuts, and also several craft vendors with crochet items, candles, woodwork and much more. Sixteen vendors have been confirmed and two more are pending. At this time the market is not accepting any more vendors.

A long term vendor that has been with the Piqua's Farmers Market since it opened in 2009 and will be returning this season is Marrs Produce.

"I am looking very much forward to the Piqua Community Farmers Market season, with the variety of vendors there will be something for everyone!" said Staci Roth, Piqua's Farmer's Market executive director.

Some events that will be offered during the 2024 season include:

- Strawberry jam contest: Thursday, June 6:  
"Is making jam your jam?"

asks the Farmer's Market's website. "The market will be hosting a Strawberry Jam Contest. Please bring your berry creation to the Farmers Market by 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, to see how you stack up."

- Chocolate chip cookie contest: Thursday, June 27:

"Chocolate chip cookies come in so many different shapes, sizes and flavors. Do you have a secret family recipe that is the talk of the neighborhood? This is one of our most popular contests each year!" said the website.

- Cupcake decorating contest: Thursday, July 11:

"Fresh from the farm' is the theme of our annual Cupcake decorating contest," said the Farmer's Market's website." Please bring six similarly decorated cupcakes to this annual contest on Thursday, July 13, and let your creativity wonder."

- Zucchini bread contest: Thursday, Aug. 8:

"Zucchini is in abundant supply at this time of the year and most families have a time-tested recipe for the Best zucchini bread. Please bring one loaf of bread to the market. We cannot wait to see and taste your creation," said the website.

- Salsa contest: Thursday, Aug. 29:

"This will be our 11th year of the annual salsa smackdown is the granddaddy of our contests at the Piqua Community Farmers Market," said the website. "There are three

categories: mild, hot, and most unusual. Our judges always have a hard time figuring out the winner but they have a Great time judging!"

- Biggest tomato contest: Thursday, Sept. 5:

"Red, green or yellow-we are not picky about the color but we do care how much it weighs!" said the website. "Bring your home-grown beauty to this annual market contest. Each entry will be carefully weighed and may the biggest tomato win!"

- Apple pie contest: Thurs-

day, Sept. 26:

"Nothing says fall like a delicious apple pie and this popular Piqua Farmers Market season-ending contest is always a good one! Please bring your favorite pie on Thursday, September 26th, and prepare for stiff competition," said the website.

For more information on farmers market please visit [www.piquafarmersmarket.com](http://www.piquafarmersmarket.com).

The writer is a regular contributor to Miami Valley Today.

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# Troy is 'Blooming Berries'

## Troy Strawberry Festival returns June 1-2



Sheryl Roadcap | Miami Valley Today  
The SupaFun Band, of Columbus, play lively tunes great visitors at the 2023 Troy Strawberry Festival.

Sheryl Roadcap | Miami Valley Today  
Tammy Walkup, 2023 Troy Strawberry Festival chairperson, left, waves after she and Kathi Roetter, executive director of the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce, center, along with others add red dye to the fountain in downtown Troy to kick-off the 2023 Troy Strawberry Festival.

### By Sheryl Roadcap

sroadcap@aimmediamidwest.com

TROY — The Troy Strawberry Festival returns to downtown Troy and the levee for its 48th time on Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2. The kick-off ribbon cutting ceremony as well as the pre-festival evening event called the Strawberry Jam will be held on Friday, May 31.

Although it is hard to put an exact number of the amount of attendees, Chairperson Jules Harris said, typically the Strawberry Festival draws around 200,000 people over the course of the weekend.

“The last two years (festival attendance) was a lot (greater), probably because we are post the COVID pandemic, and I think everyone is back to being in festival mode,” Harris said, who has been involved with the Troy Strawberry Festival for the past 20 years.

The theme and logo the 2024 Troy Strawberry Festival theme is “Blooming Berries,” which Harris selected.

“It is an honor (to be the 2024 chairperson). Usually the chairperson has been involved for a very long period of time. It’s great fun. I always love being part of the Strawberry Festival. And I got to design the logo of this year’s festival, which is ‘Blooming Berries’ and it also includes a bee, as my husband and I are beekeepers,” Harris

explained who is the proud owner of Trojan Florist and Gifts and a local beekeeper.

The festival will again feature expanded live entertainment performances on three separate stages, one located at Prouty Plaza and two on the levee throughout the weekend. One of the levee stages is a community stage, which is on a concrete pad. This stage is on the lower levee past the gazebo where various events are held, such as the Pop Rocks jump-rope team, Zumba, belly dance instruction, a pie-eating contest among other activities. Opening ceremony activities and live music will be held on the other two stages.

Again this year, the festival will allow for an expanded DORA footprint area offering draft beer and “hard” alcoholic seltzer sales on the levee.

“The DORA will continue on the levee side again this year, so I think people will find that they don’t have go over the levee into the downtown to be able to buy draft beer and seltzer,” Harris said. “There will be big signage when you go on the levee so you see where to buy it. Last year it was down lower and so some didn’t see it.”

This year, the festival also features the Miami County Sweets and Spirits Trail for people to try various straw-

berry cocktails (and mocktails) offered by restaurants in the downtown. The drinks are currently being offered and will continue to be available through the festival weekend.

Sold by various vendors in the downtown and across the levee will be numerous strawberry-themed products, ranging from the much sought-after strawberry doughnuts, to jam, jelly, pies, salsa and brats. Over 150 craft vendors, and numerous food vendors that benefit local non-profit organizations, will offer food and products for sale.

“All craft items must be handmade” Harris said. “And all of the food vendors are nonprofit organizations that either are homemade food items or partner with vendors to offer food. For example, Haren’s Market cooks pork chops with the wrestling team, and a portion of the money goes back to the non-profit. That’s how the Strawberry Festival began, as a way to raise funds for the organizations to go back into the community.”

The festival will start with the Strawberry Jam on Friday, May 31, 5 to 9 p.m., featuring live music, kids’ activities and special evening hours at the local shops and restaurants in the downtown. A limited number of Strawberry Festi-

val vendors will also be open. The full festival will kick-off at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 1, and will be open until 9 p.m. The festival will re-open at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 2, and close at 6 p.m.

“We are still desperately in need of volunteers. We need people at the information booth — local people who know the area, and of course love Troy, who can advise people where to go for what they are looking for. We also need people at Strawberry Festival souvenirs and the shuttles,” Harris said.

There are three shuttle locations, one at the Miami County Fairgrounds, one at WACO Airfield & Museum, and a handicap accessible location at ITW Hobart Headquarters; people can park and catch a ride downtown to be dropped off at the courthouse all day.

One new event is the Junior Chess Tournament being held at The Rec on Saturday and Sunday, Harris said. Other special events include the Little Mr. and Miss Pageant, the Superkids Fitness Challenge, a tennis shoot-out, a 5K-10K run and the annual car show and cruise-in held at Troy Community Park, as well as a Bike Time Trial in Casstown on Friday.

Registration for special events or volunteer information can be found online at [www.troystrawberryfest.com](http://www.troystrawberryfest.com).



Courtesy photo  
The Kid & The Riff Raff

## 2024 Rock Piqua! line-up announced

PIQUA — The Rock Piqua! all-day food truck and music festival will return on June 22 in downtown Piqua with four musical acts in the lineup.

For 10 years, Piqua Arts Council (PAC) and Mainstreet Piqua have been unifying the Piqua community through music with their annual Rock Piqua! event.

In previous years this event was held as a free concert series throughout the summer months. A few years ago, the event was transformed into an all-day food truck and music festival that brings a diverse music line-up, a wide variety of food trucks, ice-cold beer and beverages, and an annual car show that features over 125 cars, trucks and motorcycles.

Rock Piqua! has brought numerous bands and musicians to the stage since its beginning in 2014, with a persistent mission to advocate for local musicians and present a high-quality show for community members, friends and families. Bands such as Reflektion, Brother Believe Me, Clark Manson, Cole Ritter & the Night Owls, Zack Attack and more have filled the town with songs each summer.

This year, PAC has invited Jamie Suttle to return as the night's headliner, along with the Tyler Cochran Trio, The

Kid and The Riff Raff and The Bucket List Players.

Country singer-songwriter Jamie Suttle gained her musical inspiration as a child while singing in church in her home state of Kentucky. Now a resident of Dayton, Suttle draws on other genres of music such as rock, R&B, and soul to create her own unique sound. Suttle has released three full-length albums so far as well as seven singles. Her latest album, *Dark Roots*, was released in 2022 along with the music video for the title song on her YouTube channel. Suttle will take the stage at 7 p.m.

Performing just before Suttle will be the Tyler Cochran Trio. The Tyler Cochran Trio sets out to combine the soul of the blues, mentality of jazz and attitude of rock into an experience that leaves you humming their tunes long after the music has stopped. Hailing from Dayton, the Tyler Cochran Trio began as a side project in 2014 and has evolved into Cochran's main endeavor. The Trio features the line up of Cochran on guitar and vocals, Matt Rookard on bass and Phil Doncaster on drums. Their performance will start at 5 p.m.

The Kid & The Riff Raff is a six-piece rock band reviving the sounds of the 90s and 2000s. Their brand of

throwback music will be sure to put a beat in everyone's step. The Kid and The Riff Raff will start at 3 p.m.

Hailing from southwestern Ohio, The Bucket List Players is a nine-piece horn band that pays tribute to all the great funk, rock, soul and R&B classics including Chicago, Blood Sweat & Tears, Stevie Wonder, The Commodores, and many others. They will perform at 1 p.m.

In addition to live entertainment all day, there will be a wide variety of food trucks available to all attendees, including BV Eatz, Susie's Big Dipper, Naughty Lobstah, BackAlley Eatz, Freda's Food Truck Trailer, The Brunch Truck and The Rolling Lemon. Ice-cold beer and beverages will also be available for purchase all day, including the classic domestics like Michelob Ultra and White Claws, as well as a selection of craft beer from Crooked Handle Brewing Co.

The seventh annual Rock 'N Roll Car Show will begin at noon. The cost to enter is \$5 per vehicle with people's choice awards and free dash plaques available for the first 75 cars. Pre-registration is open online and registration will be available at 10 a.m. on June 22.

For more information, visit [www.PiquaArtsCouncil.org/rock-piqua](http://www.PiquaArtsCouncil.org/rock-piqua).



File photo  
Re-enactor Tom Macy of Pleasant Hill demonstrates the operation of a flintlock rifle to visitors to the John Johnston Farm & Indian Agency during its 2021 Fall Celebration Days.

### By Rena Ryan

For Miami Valley Today

**PIQUA** — The Johnston Farm and Indian Agency in Piqua is now open for the 2024 season, in the months of April through October.

Johnston Farm & Indian Agency, located at 9845 N. Hardin Road, is a 200-acre historical site that is named after John Johnston, one of Piqua's earliest settlers. Johnston was a farmer and U.S. Indian Agent for Western Ohio from 1812 to 1829.

Visitors to the farm learn details of Johnston's life while experiencing the legendary history of the farm and Indian Agency that's been preserved for many generations. Site Director Ben Richard said the site is interpreted from the mid- to-late 1700s to the mid- to-late 1800s.

"We are very excited for this season. We have spent the winter and spring months preparing for the season. We have a lot of great events planned, including the Celtic Heritage Festival. It is the first year for that event and to end the season, we have the Historical Fall Trade Faire at Fort Piqua in October. Those

are two of our capstone events. The other events are more like programs."

Regular admission is \$9 per adult/seniors, AAA and military; \$8/students 6-12; \$4; free to Johnston Farm Friends, Ohio History Connection members, and children 5 and under. Johnston Farm is closed on holidays.

Jim Vetter, Johnston Farm canal boat captain, said he is excited for the 2024 season and ready for the students to come and learn history. Vetter said after the passing of their long time mule Kit, he's excited for people to meet the two new mules that have become family to the farm.

During the months of April, May, September and October, Johnston Farm and Indian Agency is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. for to 3:30 p.m. for school groups. The public is always welcome when a school or other group is there. Otherwise its open June, July and August, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The Johnston Farm and Indian Agency 2024 program

calendar includes the following:

- Celtic Heritage Festival — Saturday and Sunday, May 25-26. Enjoy the music and traditions of celtic heritage on the farm for memorial day weekend.

- Whauar Aur Ye Frae — Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9. Immerse yourself in John Johnson's Ulster Scouts heritage through tales and music.

- Out of the Hearth — Saturday and Sunday, June 15-16. Unveiling lives of 18th Century Women. Take a journey back in time to meet Elizabeth Cameron (portrayed by historian Laura Supinger).

- What's in the Johnston's Back Yard? — Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23. Take a guided hike through the Johnston's backyard and learn about the native plants and wildlife that are found there.

- Explore the Artistic Tapestry of the Johnston House — Saturday and Sunday, June 29-30. This unique program will allow guests to experience and learn about the decorative collection in the Johnston house, and gain insights into both the 1967 and 2018 restorations. Space

is limited, reservations are required.

- Capture the past: Historic site photography contest- Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14. Johnston Farm encourages visitors to "Grab your camera, or just bring your smartphone, and capture the wonder of the site through photography! Be sure to share your best photo through our Facebook page for a chance to win the public choice award. Two local photographers will be on hand to share techniques, display their work, and judge submissions in youth and adult divisions." Cost: site admission.

- A Dickens' Christmas- Saturday and Sunday, July 20-21 - "Did you know John Johnston and Charles Dickens once met? Come out this weekend in July to learn all about it from Mr. Dickens' American friend, James Fields. Enjoy a display of antique Christmas ornaments and make your own," the website said. Featuring living history actor, Chris Hart, and held in collaboration with Apple Tree Gallery, Piqua. Cost: site admission.

- Explore the Artistic

Tapestry of the Johnston House -This unique program runs again — Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28. Space is limited. Cost: site admission; pre-registration required.

- Evening on the Canal- Saturday, Aug. 3 — Following a light summer dinner, take a ride into the past on the Gen'l Harrison canal boat as it cruises a 1.5 mile stretch of the Miami and Erie Canal; reservations are required.

- Curiosities and Oddities: Unmasking the bizarre side of the 19th Century- Aug. 17-18 — Explore the unseen aspects behind the illusion of cleanliness and order in 19th Century dress and hygiene. Meet the “other side” as we look at the individuals and processes essential to creating this captivating image. “Prepare to be disgusted!” said the Johnston Farm website. The cost is the site admission.

- Explore the artistic tapestry of the Johnston house.

This unique program runs again — Aug. 24-25 . Space is limited. The cost is the site admission; pre-registration is required.

- Historical fall trade Faire at Fort Piqua- Oct. 19-20 — Participate in autumn festivities, and interact with tradespeople and characters from the mid 18th to mid 19th Centuries. Food and craft vendors will be on hand. Cost: site admission.

- An 1815 Johnston Christmas-Dec. 6-7 — Join the Johnston family as they celebrate Christmas in 1815, with old and new traditions. Partake of a 19th Century meal cooked over the open hearth by Laura Supinger of Thistle and Shamrock LLC. Seats are limited both evenings. Reservations will be taken starting Nov. 1.

- Johnston House Christmas tours- Dec. 14, 15, 28 and 29 — Experience the magic of Christmas past by



Courtesy photo

**Former Site Manager Andy Hite addresses guests during Christmas at the Johnston Farm in 2017.**

joining a guided tour of the Johnston house, all decked out for the season. After the tour, come to the kitchen for a snack and browse the sales table for a unique Johnston Farm memento. Cost: \$5 per person.

Richard says they have two main goals for Johnston Farm, and they are No. 1, to bring new people out to the property to experience

the history of the land, and No. 2, to get people who have been to there before to revisit the land and become acquainted with the property to see what new things they have going on.

For more information, visit [www.johnstonfarmohio.com](http://www.johnstonfarmohio.com).

Sheryl Roadcap contributed to this story. She can be reached at [sroadcap@aimediaidwest.com](mailto:sroadcap@aimediaidwest.com).

## Area golf courses

### Miami County

- Echo Hills Golf Course Piqua  
2100 Echo Lake Drive  
Piqua, OH 45356  
Phone: 937-615-6690
- Homestead Golf Course Tipp City  
5327 Worley Road  
Tipp City, OH 45383  
Phone: 937-698-4876
- Miami Shores Golf Club  
402 E Staunton Road  
Troy, OH 45373  
Phone: 937-335-4457
- Troy Country Club Troy, private  
1830 Peters Road  
Troy, OH 45373  
Phone: 937-335-5691
- Piqua Country Club, private  
9812 Country Club Road  
Piqua, OH 45356  
Phone: 937-773-7744

### Darke County

- Beechwood Golf Course

- 1476 State Route 503  
Arcanum, OH 45304  
Phone: 937-678-4422
- Stillwater Valley Golf Club  
9235 Seibt Road  
Bradford, OH 45380  
Phone: 937-526-3041
- Turtle Creek Golf Course (formerly Greenville Country Club)  
6545 East U.S. Route 36  
Greenville, OH 45331  
Phone: 937-548-3563
- Union City Country Club  
787 Wasson Road  
Union City, OH 45390  
Phone: 937-968-6518
- White Springs Golf Club  
3630 State Route 571  
Greenville, OH 45331  
Phone: 937-548-6546

### Shelby County

- Moose Golf Course  
1200 N. Broadway Ave.

- Sidney, OH 45365  
Phone: 937-492-5500
  - Shelby Oaks Golf Club, semi-private  
9900 Sidney Freyburg Road  
Sidney, OH 45365  
Phone: 937-492-2883
- ### Montgomery County
- Cassel Hills Golf Course  
201 Clubhouse Way  
Vandalia, OH 45377  
Phone: 937-890-1300
  - Community Golf Course  
2917 Burkley St.  
Dayton, OH 45409  
Phone: 937-293-2341
  - Dayton Country Club, private  
555 Kramer Road  
Dayton, OH 45419  
Phone: 937-294-2735
  - Jamaica Run Golf Club  
8781 Jamaica Road  
Germantown, OH 45327  
Phone: 937-866-4333



# Tipp City Jeep Cruise-In holds 2nd annual event

Courtesy photo | Downtown Tipp City Partnership

People enjoy checking out the various jeeps that participated in the 2023 Tipp City Jeep Cruise-In held in downtown Tipp City.

**By Kathleen Leese**

For Miami Valley Today

**TIPP CITY** — When 2023's Tipp City Jeep Cruise-In was held, it was such a hit that it was decided that this year's event that was held on Friday, June 7, would be even bigger and better with room for a real Jeep invasion.

Tasha Weaver, executive director of Downtown Tipp City Partnership, said 2023's inaugural Jeep Cruise-In had 550 Jeeps participating.

"At 6 o'clock we had to start turning Jeeps away," she said, noting this year's cruise-in will stage at Hyatt Street for Jeep owners wanting to show off their vehicles. "Anybody with a Jeep can come. This year, we can easily park 1,000 Jeeps."

There was no registration or fee to enter the event Friday evening in downtown Tipp City.

Jeeps parked in downtown Tipp City but Weaver said they only planned to close Main Street and a one block perimeter around that area. Parking was free and among other places, the public was able to park on Broadway Street, which Weaver said offered a lot of parking space.

Linda Kreider, owner of Fox and Feather Trading Co., 125 E. Main St., Tipp City, was the "official" merchandiser of T-shirts and other items for

the event and Weaver said there were other merchants in the downtown area to offer a variety of Jeep gear for the public and participants of the cruise-in.

Kreider's sister-in-law, Shelly Tebbe, is a moderator of a Duck, Duck Jeep Facebook page, and Weaver said, "Last year (in 2023), she did such an amazing job (advertising on her Facebook page), we knew we were going to keep partnering with them."

While there was no fee to participate, Weaver said, there would be a raffle. Proceeds from the raffle benefits the Lunch on Us program, a Tipp-Monroe Community Services program that helps provide lunch to children in the summertime and offers a backpack program during the school year to make sure children do not go hungry. Raffle tickets were only to be sold on the day of the cruise-in. During the evening, raffle baskets were given away.

Reflektion, a duo made up of Piqua twins Jared and Justin Younce, provided entertainment during the event. The twins have been performing for nine years and perform over 200 shows per year including having performed at Country Concert in Fort Loramie.

Food trucks were also available on Third Street and they include carnival food, such as elephant ears. Mama's Boys, which has different food each

month, were also there along with Tipp City Pizza, that offers pizza by the slice. BBQ and a variety of other food were available in addition to Rad Candy Company and Bodega Market, which Weaver said, offers ice cream in addition to other options. Other downtown restaurants was also open during the cruise-in.

Eight different vendor provided Jeep gear, such as duck key chains and other items during the cruise-in. All stores in downtown Tipp City was open and also had Jeep related items for sale.

This story went to press before awards were given out in variety of categories for Jeep owners, but a big award for the event is the People's Choice Award that voted on by those attending the cruise-in.

Weaver said those looking to purchase a Jeep are able to talk with a salesman from Erwin Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Troy, which are headlining sponsors for the event, including the entertainment and stage.

Other sponsors include Mauk Cabinets by Design and Monroe Federal Savings and Loan, both Tipp City businesses. Weaver said both are "huge supporters of downtown events." She expressed her appreciation to all of the sponsors making the event possible.





# Canal Music Fest ushers in summer

Miami Valley Today file photo  
Local 80s cover band, Stranger, featuring MIX 107.7 FM disc jockey/Jeff Stevens, center, performs with znels, right, during the 2023 Canal Music Fest hosted by the Tipp City Area Arts Council (TCAAC) at the Tipp City Park.

## By Kathleen Leese

For Miami Valley Today

TIPP CITY — Music filled the air as the 2024 Canal Music Fest returned on Saturday, June 8, in Tipp City bringing music, food and friends together to celebrate the beginning of summer.

The Canal Music Fest, which started in 2010, has grown from approximately 200 people to over 4,000 in attendance in recent years. The event was held at the rear of City Park in Tipp City, with gates opening at 5 p.m. and music at 6 p.m. The event is annually sponsored by the Tipp City Area Arts Council (TCAAC) and is a family friendly event that is free and open to the public. The concert takes place rain or shine.

Meredith McKee, executive director of the Tipp City Chamber of Commerce, said, “We’re just very excited for Canal Music Fest 2024. A great opportunity for people to come and experience all

Tipp City has to offer.”

In addition to “lots of music and vendors,” before the event McKee invited the public to “come early and experience our restaurants and shops.”

Those attending had the opportunity to hear Draw the Line — Aerosmith Tribute Band, which is the officially endorsed Aerosmith tribute band that is originally from near the Boston, Massachusetts area. The group which began in 1991, has been touring for over 30 years and has traveled in the United States as well as in several other countries, to sold out crowds of up to 20,000 people.

Steven Tyler, Aerosmith lead singer, has described Draw the Line as the best Aerosmith tribute band. Some original Aerosmith members have at times performed with Draw the Line, including Ray Tabano, Aerosmith founding member.

Also performing was Michael Williams, known as

a finalist on The Voice and American Idol. Williams is 22 years old and is a singer and songwriter from Cincinnati. His hit songs include “Honey,” “If We Got Us,” and “Do You Love Me?”

znels, known as a local favorite, performed at the concert, as well. znels brings a combination of pop, rock, alternative and electronic music to the stage and even features his dog, Zero, in his music. znels has produced and released his single, “limelight” on Spotify and his latest song, “be kind and rewind,” which he co-produced with Connor Daniel (Iann Dior, The Veronicas, Demi Lovato). znels is described as a “nostalgic alt-pop daydream.”

In addition to the music, food vendors were at the park including Bolasko’s Concessions, Buckeye Burgers, Daryls House of BBQ, Johnny Wontons, Kona Ice, La Grange Mexican, Raging Bull Pizza and Susie’s Big Dipper.

Skull Dollz Face Painters was also at the event.

Those attending the concert should note no backpacks or coolers are allowed and those attending should bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Four legged friends are allowed to attend the concert as long as they are on a leash, are friendly and the owners clean up after them. It is a good idea to bring water for them. It is also noted that the event is handicapped accessible.

The TCAAC, a non-profit organization, helps to promote Tipp City’s economic growth and cultural heritage including promoting the arts and performances throughout the year.

Over 40 sponsors made the 2024 concert possible. For a full list of the sponsors or more information about Canal Music Fest 2024, go to [www.canalmusicfest.com](http://www.canalmusicfest.com).

The writer is a regular contributor to Miami Valley Today.

# Johnston Farm holds 1st Celtic Festival



Kathleen Leese | For Miami Valley Today  
Brad Keefer, of Madison, walks through the mountain encampment in his kilt while carrying a kettle that might have been used in the 1800s during the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency Celtic Festival that was held on Saturday, May 25, and Sunday, May 26. Visitors were able to see how life might have been in the days of encampments during the weekend.



Kathleen Leese | For Miami Valley Today  
Brian Sutton, left, of DeGraff, and Dustin Baker, of Tipp City, who is a blacksmith when he is not participating in encampments, wait on their pork to cook over a fire during a mountain encampment at the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency Celtic Festival on Saturday, May 25 as part of the two day event that concluded on Sunday, May 26. Baker owns Mountain Man Blacksmith Co. in Tipp City and answered questions for those stopping by their tent.

**By Kathleen Leese**  
For Miami Valley Today

PIQUA — The sound of bagpipes as well as Irish music filled the air and carried visitors back to another time during the inaugural Johnston Farm and Indian Agency Celtic Festival on Saturday, May 25, and Sunday, May 26.

The event was declared a success by Johnston Farm and Indian Agency Executive Director Ben Richard. He said 1,195 guests visited the festival, which was cut short on Sunday after tornado warnings and inclement weather made it necessary to curtail Sunday's events around 3 p.m. There were visitors from Indiana, Alabama, Missouri and New Jersey as well as other locations including different areas of Ohio.

"The whole point of this is to get people to interact with history," Richard said. He noted that he is happy with the success of the inaugural festival. "For a first year event, the attendance met our expectations. We're thrilled with the participation of the encampment and the vendors and...food vendors."

During the weekend, visi-

tors had a chance to visit the home of John Johnston's family where they took trips to the spring house and toured the house and barn and celebrated the legacy of John Johnston's Irish-Scot heritage. He and his wife Rachel had 15 children. Johnston was an Indian agent and worked with several tribes of Native Americans in the area and his work is detailed in the Frontier Museum, which was open to visitors this weekend, allowing them to learn more about those days.

Canal boat rides were popular all weekend with visitors forming long lines through the museum waiting for tickets to board the boat. Mindy Bensman, of Coldwater, who brought her young children to the festival, recalled visiting the Johnston Farm as a child herself. She said her grandparents would bring her to the farm and they would have a picnic lunch and enjoy rides on the canal boat. Bensman recalled being allowed to help steer the canal boat, saying it was a special childhood memory.

Also popular was the mountain encampment with tepees and tents and individu-

als re-enacting the dress and activities of that time, preparing meat over open fires outdoors, carrying kettles across the open field, some men and boys dressed in kilts while others including women, dressed in early 1800s clothing.

The entertainment tent was nearly filled with visitors who enjoyed hearing the music of Shilelagh Law as well as Bettina Solas; St. Andrew's Highland Dancers of Dayton; Drab Irish Band; Rocky Creek; Blue Rock Boys and storyteller Chris Supinger and a Johnston Farm and Indian Agency storyteller.

For those that were hungry, there were a wide variety of food trucks including Go Crazzy Ice Cream Cereal Bar; the Brunch Truck; Keyhole Pizza; Wilson's Rollin Schmoke and the Piqua Rotary Club that offered Crooked Handle Brewery drinks and bottled water.

Richard said Johnston Farm and Indian Agency is "looking to grow it (the festival) and make it a bigger and better event." He said they will look at whether they should change the event to a different weekend as they review this

year's festival.

Among the sponsors of this year's festival are Dr. Richard and Sandy Adams; Koverman, Staley, Dickerson Insurance; William and Karen McNeill; Piqua Battery; Piqua Steel and Crane; Steve and Gail Staley and Upper Valley Medical Center. Also contributing were Upper Valley Career Center - Adult Education; City of Piqua Parks and Utilities Departments; Urban Elsass; Hemmelgarn Services; Miami County Sheriff's Office; Crayex Corporation; Lloyd and Teri Fry; Apex Aluminum and Die Cast; Fort Rowdy Gathering Committee and the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency staff, volunteers and planning committee.

Richard said they are looking for volunteers to join their team. They need individuals to help lead school groups and work in other areas of the Johnston Farm and Indian Agency. Those interested in volunteering can call 937-773-2522 and leave a message and the call will be returned within days.

The writer is a regular contributor to Miami Valley Today.

# 2024 Tipp City Mum Festival set for Sept. 28-29

**Festival celebrated library's 100-year anniversary in 2023**

Sheryl Roadcap | Miami Valley Today  
**Mums are everywhere at the 2023  
Tipp City Mum Festival.**

**By Eamon Baird and Sheryl Roadcap**  
ebaird@aimmediamidwest.com

**TIPP CITY** — The 65th annual Tipp City Mum Festival is set to take place at the city park on Sept. 28-29.

The Mum Festival dates to the 1950s when Tipp City's newly formed chamber of commerce sought a symbol to represent the city. Otto Frings, who had returned from the Tulip Festival in Holland, Michigan suggested the city honor the chrysanthemum.

At the time, the Spring Hill Nurseries in Tipp City were selling the chrysanthemum at such a large rate that before long, Tipp City became known as the "Mum Capital of the World."

In 2023, the 64th annual Tipp City Mum Festival was held at the city park on Sept. 22-24 with plenty of events and activities all weekend. Last year's theme was "Tipp City Library: 100 years of Stories," in honor of the Tipp City Library's 100-year anniversary.

Jay Taylor, president of last year's Mum Festival, said of the 2023 event, "The city park is wall to wall with people and it has a really good family oriented hometown feel," Taylor said.

Annually, the festival starts with the Annual Mum Festival Cruise-In on Fri-

day at 4 p.m. The cruise-in will feature hundreds of classic and muscle cars from almost every automobile era. The cruise-in will be downtown from First Street to Hyatt Street. Food trucks, sidewalk vendors, and Tipp City's restaurants will be available for festival-goers to enjoy. Merchants and arts and crafts dealers from all over during the festival weekend from 10 a.m. until dark on Saturday and 11 a.m. to dark on Sunday.

Kevin Cox, director of public relations for the 2023 festival, estimated between 20 and 30 volunteers were set to help throughout the weekend.

"We consider this Tipp City's Super Bowl weekend. We try to make sure everybody onboard, whether it be the police or the fire department, knows the city is all onboard, along with all the Tipp City merchants, and anyone involved with the parade fest," Cox said.

Saturday always starts off with the Annual Run for the Mums, sponsored by Tipp Monroe Community Services. Run for the Mums is a flat terrain 5K race that begins at 8 a.m. in the city park. The Tipp City Mum Festival, Tipp Monroe Community Services have multiple prizes and raffles at the finish line. The race goes on regardless of the weather.

Following the 5K, the annual Mum Festival Parade is held, featuring bands, floats, classic cars, and more from the local and surrounding areas. The parade starts in the downtown at 10 a.m.

In 2023, the Tipp City Mum Festival partnered with the Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 586 to offer the opportunity to adopt a mum.

Cox gave a special thanks to all volunteers who help with the Mum Festival every year including the Kiwanis Club of Tipp City and the 2023's grand marshals the Tipp City Library.

"We appreciate everything the non-profits and the businesses that help sponsor this festival. We couldn't do it without them and greatly appreciate them," Cox said.

Information on the 2024 Tipp City Mum Festival has not been updated on the festival's website, but visit <https://tippmumfestival.org/> to stay up to date. However, exhibitors interested in being part of the the 2024 Mum Festival are invited to apply for entry and should visit <https://tippmumfestival.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Arts-Crafts-Application-2024.pdf>

Sheryl Roadcap contributed to this story.



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