# STRUTHERS NEWSLETTER

**Editor Ryan Goist** 

#### Celebrating a Champion for Mental Health: Officer James Ritter, CIT Officer of the Year

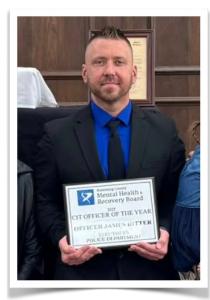
The Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board proudly honors Struthers Police Patrolman James Ritter as the 2025 CIT Officer of the Year! For over a decade, Officer Ritter has been a vital part of our community's mental health support. As a trained Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officer, he expertly de-escalates crises involving mental health or substance use, embodying the collaborative spirit of the CIT program.

Officer Ritter's dedication has profoundly impacted Struthers, offering reassurance and empowerment to residents with special needs and their families. He is a trusted listener and advocate, treating everyone with dignity.

The Board extends its deepest gratitude to Officer Ritter for his outstanding service and commitment.

Well-Deserved! Congratulations, Officer Ritter!





"It's just about interacting with people who are having a difficult challenge... and learning the ways to guide them through that to better help," - Officer Ritter

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For even more stories, scan to see the digital version or listen to the AI Audio Podcast version (may mispronounce names).







## Community

# Struthers High School Civics Day: A Resounding Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who made **Struthers High School Civics Day** a fantastic success! We're incredibly grateful to **Animal Charity** and **The Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley** for their insightful tours,
offering students powerful lessons in community service. A special thanks
to our Keynote Speaker, **Jordan Ryan**, for an inspiring message that truly
resonated. We also appreciate **Megan Shorthouse** for expertly organizing
the event, and **Cassandra Bradley**, **Frank Pape**, **Frank Marr**, along with
all the students and staff, for their dedication. Finally, a shout-out to **Donavito's Restaurant and Catering Co.** for their fantastic contribution!
Thanks to everyone's collective efforts, Civics Day successfully fostered
awareness, compassion, and active citizenship in our students. We look
forward to continuing to build a more engaged and compassionate
community!



Our Generous 2025 Civics Day Sponsors:

- Rudzik Excavating
- Morgan Oil
- MS Consultants
- Kirila Funeral Home
- Nemenz IGA
- Aqua
- Clemans Nelson and Associates
- Dunkin'
- The Balloon Doctor
- The Elmton
- Youngstown Amvets
   Ohio
- Republic Services
- Bridge Credit Union
- J.S. Bova Excavating
- Premier Bank
- Jonathan Guerrier
- Buckeye Energy
   Brokers
- Team Office Technologies



The CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation has been providing business development opportunities within its 120-acre industrial park since 1984. CASTLO recently created a 501(c)(3) non-profit (CASTLO Community Fund, Inc.) to help expand other initiatives within the CASTLO communities of Campbell, Struthers, Lowellville, Coitsville Township and Poland Township. These new initiatives include community

enhancements, educational advancement and civic engagement to add to our mission of fostering economic development within the region. Non-profits and government entities are eligible. For funding guidelines, email denise@castlo.com.

# Community

# **Connecting Community Through Ham Radio**

The Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club (W8WRC) recently held its annual Field Day 2025 at Mickler Park in Struthers, with Ken Goist (WD8JZP) coordinating the event. This gathering, part of a North American event involving over 31,000 enthusiasts, highlighted ham radio's crucial role in emergency preparedness, outreach, and technical education.

W8WRC, a non-profit founded in 2010, provides essential public service and educational outreach in the Mahoning Valley. They actively support local initiatives such as the Paner-a-thon, Youngstown Peace Race, Struthers Parades, Silly Science Sunday, and various STEM programs.

Field Day 2025's success was boosted by collaborations with the Struthers Police, Fire Department, Lane Ambulance, Shields Outdoor, and Hot Diggity Dog Eatery LLC. The City of Struthers thanked W8WRC for bringing this important event to the community, emphasizing the significant impact of amateur radio clubs on local safety, education, and community spirit.

#### Struthers Historical Society Honors Founder Marian Kutlesa

The Struthers Historical Society proudly unveiled a memorial plaque dedicated to its Founder and Curator, Marian Kutlesa. This special tribute recognizes Ms. Kutlesa's invaluable contributions to the preservation of Struthers' rich history.

The Society extends its sincere gratitude to the City of Struthers for donating the plaque and to Rudzik Excavating for generously providing the stone. The memorial is a beautiful and fitting testament to Marian Kutlesa's legacy, and the Society is "forever grateful" for these contributions.





# Community

#### Another Successful Struthers Clean-Up Day!

We're thrilled to announce that another **Struthers Clean- Up Day** is officially in the books, and it was a resounding success! This year, we saw an incredible turnout, with more volunteers participating than ever before.

A huge thank you goes out to all the kids, families, and coaches who dedicated their time and effort. We also extend our immense gratitude to the Struthers Street Department, Struthers Stormwater, the Struthers Administration and City Council Members, the Recycling Green-Team, Southside Recycling, Habitat ReStore - Struthers, Basista Hauling, the Guerrilla Gardening Society of The Mahoning Valley, Frank Marr, and the volunteers from Walmart. Your support was invaluable.

Additionally, we're very appreciative of the delicious cupcakes provided by **Struthers Unleashed!** 

Despite the chilly weather, everyone managed well, and we're proud of what we accomplished together.











To see more from this fun community event scan here





REMINDER, LEAF BAGS WILL
ONLY BE PICKED
UP ON MONDAY MORNINGS.
PLEASE SET THEM
TO THE CURB ON SUNDAY

Congratulations to the following individuals on their recent certifications.

Chris Desalvo: Class 3 (February 2025)

Dylan Schmidt: Class 1(April 2025) Class 2
(May 2025)

Jason Hall: Class 2 (February 2025)

Mike Wildes: Class 1 (June 2025)

Sam Sandusky: Class 2 (April 2025)



In Case You Missed It

# Struthers Community Enjoys Easter Egg Hunt!

The annual City of Struthers Easter Egg Hunt at Struthers High School football field was a resounding success, despite the chilly weather! The event, described as "cold, fun, and fast," brought the community together for a morning of festive activities and generous donations.

A huge thank you goes out to Councilwoman Megan Pingley for kicking off the event, and to all of The City Council members, City Administration, and the Easter Bunny for their participation. Frank Marr also received a special mention for his contributions.

Light City Church was instrumental in making the event a success, providing engaging activities, an incredible 100 bags of groceries, and preparing 700 lunches for everyone in attendance!

The Struthers Firemen's Association and Struthers FOP Lodge 41 generously donated Giannios chocolate bunnies, adding a sweet touch to the hunt. Walmart also contributed to the excitement by donating two bikes for the free raffle, much to the delight of the lucky winners.

The City of Struthers extends its gratitude to all who helped make this year's Easter Egg Hunt a memorable one for the community!

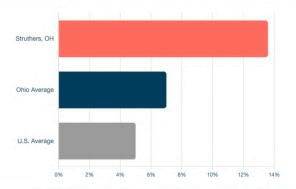






#### **Outpacing the Market: A Comparative Look**

Struthers' performance is not just strong in isolation; it's exceptional when compared to broader market trends. The city's recent growth significantly surpasses both state and national averages, highlighting its unique position as a high-performing outlier.



# **Struthers' Housing Market Soars** into Ohio's Top 25

Struthers, Ohio, is rapidly emerging as a standout in the state's housing market, securing a spot among the top 25 fastest-growing in Ohio. This impressive ascent reflects a significant transformation within Mahoning County. Data supports this growth, showing that a \$50,000 investment in Struthers could have yielded \$72,000 in equity. This substantial appreciation in a historically industrial area isn't coincidental; the consistent rise in property values, particularly since 2020, signals genuine economic progress and revitalization within the community.

For too long, Struthers may have been overshadowed by neighboring Youngstown. However, this resilient suburb is now forging its own path, uniquely blending its working-class heritage with burgeoning economic prospects. This combination creates a compelling entry point for discerning investors seeking affordable markets with a proven growth trajectory. The city has been actively pursuing revitalization through initiatives like the "Welcome Home Ohio" program, securing millions in grants to construct new workforce housing and redevelop properties. Additionally, the creation of a city-wide Community Reinvestment Area offers tax exemptions for new construction and remodeling, further incentivizing investment. Struthers is also focusing on improving its downtown, creating walkable areas, and enhancing recreational spaces, all contributing to a higher quality of life and increased appeal for residents and investors alike.

## **ICYMI**

In Case You Missed It

### Struthers High School Juniors Explore City Government!

Struthers High School's second annual Job Shadowing Day gave 11 juniors from the government class a firsthand look at how our city operates. This initiative, originally sparked by Michael Meuter and continued by Kevin Dailey and the High School administration, aimed to showcase the collaborative spirit of various city entities.

The day kicked off with a insightful panel discussion featuring local leaders like Bill Padisak (President of AFL-CIO), Michael Patrick (Council President), Jennifer Johnson (Aqua Area Manager), Bryan Tedesco (Campbell Mayor), and James Baluck (Councilman-At-Large).

Students then toured City Hall, met department heads, and observed court proceedings. Safety Service Director, Bob Benson, transported the group to the Mahoning County Board of Elections, where some students even registered to vote. A visit to the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments provided further insight into their support for Struthers.

Lunch at Donavito's Restaurant and Catering Co. and "THE BEST" cake at Brian Palumbo's Selah Restaurant were highlights. Despite the rain, students briefly visited the Community Kayak Launch before returning to learn about upcoming city projects.

A big thank you to Frank Marr, Bob Benson, and Taylor Schmitt for their invaluable contributions. We're thrilled to offer this enriching experience and look forward to next year's Job Shadowing Day!

## Struthers Mayor Honored with Eastgate Community Leadership Award!

We're thrilled to announce that Struthers' very own Mayor Catherine Cercone Miller was recently recognized for her outstanding dedication to our community! Mayor Miller was presented with the inaugural **Community Leadership Award** at Eastgate Regional Council of Governments' 2025 Annual Meeting, held on May 15th at Stambaugh Auditorium.

Eastgate, a vital organization connecting local governments across Northeast Ohio, honored Mayor Miller for her "exemplary dedication to the betterment of the community." This prestigious award highlights her significant contributions and commitment to improving life in Struthers.

Eastgate's mission is to foster collaboration among communities on crucial issues like transportation, water and air quality, and local infrastructure, ensuring our region qualifies for essential federal and state funding. We celebrate Mayor Miller's well-deserved recognition and her ongoing leadership in strengthening our community!





## **ICYMI**

In Case You Missed It

## A Fiery Passion: Council President Patrick's Historic Mack Truck

For Struthers City Council President Mike Patrick, a childhood fascination with firefighters blossomed into a lifelong dedication. After 27 years as a volunteer, a rare opportunity arose in 2003: to acquire a 1943 Mack fire truck with deep ties to Struthers' history.

This very truck served the city from 1943 until around 1980 before falling into disrepair. In 2003, retired fireman Don Clemente found it and brought it back to Struthers. Patrick and Clemente then embarked on a year-long restoration, breathing new life into the historic vehicle. "There were some Friday nights we were into it, we were up to three or four in the morning working on it. It was fun," Patrick recalled.

Patrick eventually bought the truck, even tracking down original photos from the Mack plant. Today, you can often spot him behind the wheel of his restored Mack in local parades. "The history of this town means a lot to me, and I'm just trying to preserve as much history as I can," he said.

In 2023, exactly 80 years after the original fire station opened, Struthers unveiled a new station and a brand-new fire truck. Patrick's 1943 Mack was there to commemorate this historic moment, standing proudly alongside its modern counterpart. "It wasn't planned that way. 1943 to 2023, the same thing. New truck, new station. It wasn't planned. But it was part of history. I like to say I was part of history," Patrick reflected.





#### A Shield for Our Children: Struthers Embraces Vital Bicycle Safety

Crucial new partnership to boost child safety! Struthers has teamed up with Struthers City Schools and the Ohio AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) for their impactful "Put A Lid On It!" program.

Thanks to the Ohio AAP's generous helmet donation, we now have provided vital safety gear directly to local children and families. This strengthens our commitment to injury prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles for Ohio's youth.

The "Put A Lid On It!" campaign, led by the Ohio AAP, aims to significantly increase helmet use among kids and teens to reduce head injuries from bike accidents. It focuses on empowering through education, ensuring equitable access to helmets by providing them free or subsidized, and proactive injury prevention to avert severe, lasting harm.

This collaboration highlights our shared dedication to our community's future. By uniting, we're taking tangible steps to ensure more children have the protection needed to safely enjoy bicycling. We urge all Struthers families to join us in championing the "Put A Lid On It!" movement for a healthier, safer Struthers.









## **ICYMI**

In Case You Missed It



# Struthers Honors "Wonder Woman" Bonnie Beachy

Struthers proudly announces the posthumous induction of Bonnie Beachy into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame's 2025 class. Honored in Columbus on April 12th, "Struthers' Wonder Woman" was a basketball legend. Beachy led Struthers High to the 1978 State AAA Championship, earning State MVP and becoming the school's career leading scorer. Her dominance continued at Kent State University, where she set 23 school records and became the all-time leading scorer with 2,071 points, leading her team to the 1982 NCAA tournament. Her #13 jersey is retired at KSU.Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame Board President. Jeanne Arnzen Gulick, lauded Bonnie's "excellence... competitive spirit and dedication."Beyond the court, Bonnie dedicated her life to education, working with atrisk children and serving as a middle school principal. She bravely battled ovarian cancer for 12 years before her passing on October 13, 2017. Bonnie Beachy's induction solidifies her place among Ohio's basketball elite, leaving an inspiring and enduring legacy that brings immense pride to Struthers.



# **America in Bloom Advisor Sharon Hadden Visits Struthers!**

Recently Struthers had the distinct pleasure of hosting Sharon Hadden, an advisor from America in Bloom (AIB). Struthers is one of many communities across the United States actively engaged in local revitalization programs, and Ms. Hadden's visit was a significant step in our journey.

Struthers proudly showcases a rich industrial heritage and an incredibly strong sense of community. Our city has gracefully transitioned from its steel-producing roots into a vibrant urban area, beautifully blending residential, commercial, and recreational spaces.

During her visit, we were especially proud to show off our City Hall front garden. This vibrant space is a testament to the hard work and dedication of some truly amazing individuals and groups. A huge thank you goes out to Julie George, Karin Tatar, Eve Parteleno, the Guerrilla Gardening Society of The Mahoning Valley, and Jan Cochenour for their incredible efforts in making it shine!

We look forward to incorporating Ms. Hadden's insights as we continue to nurture the growth and beauty of Struthers.







# Projects AQUA An & Essential Utilities Company

**Aqua** is beginning a project in July to replace 542 lead and galvanized water service lines in the City. The properties included in this project will receive a letter over the next couple of weeks. Any lead or galvanized material found on the Agua-owned side of the service line will be replaced. If the propertyowned side of the service line is determined to be lead or galvanized previously or currently downstream of lead, Agua will offer to replace it at no direct cost to the property owner only if a License Agreement is signed and returned to Agua. That is why it is important to read the letter and follow the instructions carefully. Only the properties receiving this letter will be included in this project. As more lead service lines are identified, they will be included in future projects until they are all replaced.

## Struthers Secures Federal Grant for Crucial Water Facility Upgrades (K.O. CORNER)

The City of Struthers has been awarded \$250,000 through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for essential upgrades to the Struthers Water Pollution Control (SWPC) Facility. This facility provides vital wastewater treatment for over 33.000 residents and numerous businesses across Struthers, Built in 1964 and last significantly renovated in 1986, the SWPC has reached a critical bottleneck, hindering new development. This grant, part of millions already secured, reflects the City's proactive investment in infrastructure to support both current needs and future growth. These vital public infrastructure projects, though often understated, are the foundation of strong communities. The City of Struthers remains committed to this important work, ensuring the long-term well-being of its residents. K.O. Consulting is proud to support the City in these crucial initiatives.



## Only Mahoning County Recipient in Latest H2Ohio Funding Round (K.O. CORNER)

Great news for Struthers! Our city has successfully secured an \$18,548 grant through the Ohio EPA's H2Ohio Rivers Chloride Reduction Grant Program. We're especially proud to announce that Struthers was the *only* municipality in all of Mahoning County to receive funding in this latest round!

This grant, part of Governor DeWine's H2Ohio initiative aimed at protecting Ohio's waterways, comes from settlement funds related to environmental protection. It allows us to invest in smarter, more efficient ways to keep our roads safe in the winter while protecting our local environment.

The \$18,548 will be used to purchase 40 advanced Steel Carbon Blades and 10 Razor Systems for our road crews. This modern equipment helps reduce the amount of road salt needed, which is crucial because excess salt runoff can harm our rivers and streams, impact drinking water sources, and even corrode pipes and bridges over time.

By using less salt more effectively, we're not only saving taxpayer dollars in the long run but also actively working to improve water quality in our community.

A special thank you goes out to KO Consulting, LLC for their assistance in securing this important funding for our city! This grant is another step forward in keeping Struthers safe, clean, and environmentally responsible.

### K.O. Corner



# **Business**

# Struthers Business Spotlight: Share Your Story!

The Struthers Business Spotlight is showcasing the diverse businesses that make our city thrive! Join Ryan Goist and Mayor Catherine Cercone Miller as they meet local business owners and help them share their unique stories with the community. This initiative highlights businesses of all sizes and industries, letting everyone know more about the amazing offerings right here in Struthers. Our spotlight videos are released twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, and have already garnered over 65,000 views! We've received tons of positive feedback from residents discovering new places and learning more about our vibrant business scene.

Want to see your business in the spotlight? **Anyone can sign up** by scanning the link below.

We'd love to feature your business and help the community learn more about what you do!







We recently featured **Glamacious Nails & Glam Tan** (71 Terrace Street) on the Struthers Business Spotlight. Owner **Natasha DiCross** showcased their services, including nails (acrylics, gel, dip, manicures), pedicures (full, mini, luxury), facial waxing, paraffin wax, and tanning. Follow them on social media for new offerings!

Our Struthers Business Spotlight visited **Artists at Work Inc.** and owner **Betsy Kirkwood**. For over 40 years, Betsy has brought creativity and community pride to Struthers, specializing in custom designs.





**K Mini Mart**, our newest local mini-store at 311 Maplewood Ave, has been a fantastic convenience for quick bites and more since December 2024. Owners **Bilal and Ali**, with over 20 years of industry experience, have seamlessly integrated into our community, even retaining all existing employees and overcoming holiday season vendor challenges.

To see the videos we've taken, and keep up with the Spotlight tour scan the OR code!



## **Business**

On **April 18th**, George and Marylynn Horvat celebrated their **one-year anniversary** as owners of Brier Hill Pizza & Wings! George, a Struthers native, and Marylynn, from Youngstown, returned to the Mahoning Valley. They brought back experiences from traveling the globe, where their strong work ethic and "Youngstown Grit" were always recognized. Investing in the Struthers community truly felt like coming home for them.

Marylynn's extensive background in the food industry, including over a decade cooking for veterans, laid the foundation for their commitment to quality. Soon after taking over, they put their own touch on the menu, starting with a revamped pizza recipe designed to deliver a fantastic new flavor for all pizza lovers.

Come taste the difference hometown pride makes! Visit George and Marylynn to wish them a **Happy Anniversary** and try the pizza that's quickly becoming a local favorite, plus some delicious wings while you're there!





Scan the Qr code below to see videos on all the Spotlighted businesses!

Barefeet Kayak Rentals, owned by Justine Parise. They make getting on the water easy, meeting you directly at the Mahoning River or other waterways with all your gear. Beyond just rentals, Barefeet Kayak Rentals also spearheads The Onion Bag Litter Prevention Project, promoting clean waterways.



Since 1907, Crogan Plumbing & Heating Supplies, a fourth-generation family business at 5821 Poland-Struthers Rd, has been your reliable source for plumbing needs. With over a century of experience, Crogan's helps you find even the rarest parts. Just bring in a sketch or picture!

To see the videos we've taken, and keep up with the Spotlight tour scan the QR code!







We recently visited Marc Len and Dave Ladigo at **Cut & Toast Premium Cigars** to learn about their unique business. Cut & Toast offers something for everyone: an exclusive 24-hour members-only lounge, a wide selection of premium cigars for personal enjoyment or gifting, and event services. Did you know they even have a traveling mobile humidor and cigar lounge? Follow them on Facebook and Instagram to see where they'll pop up next!

# Happenings

What's going on around town...





Movie in the park Sponsored by July 18th and 25th 8pm

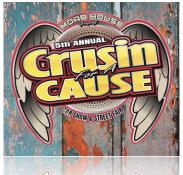








<u>Check</u> <u>libraryvisit.org for</u> <u>details</u>



July 19th 10am-2PM Struthers High School



SALE

Check Facebook for details

September 5th, 6th, 7th No permit needed



#### **Places**

#### Yellow Creek Park/ Hopewell Furnace Trail

Here in north east Ohio, "back in eighteen-o-three, James and Danny Heaton found the ore that was linin' Yellow Creek. They built a blast furnace" - Bruce Springsteen and that's where the story of Yellow Creek Park really begins. It's a place where the echoes of hard work and history meet the quiet beauty of nature, right in the heart of Struthers.

This park, all 76 acres of it, is a real gem, managed by the good folks at Mill Creek MetroParks. You can spend a whole day there – hiking those winding trails, tossing a frisbee in the picnic areas, or getting a game going on the tennis, pickleball, horseshoe, or basketball courts. For the little ones, there's a playground that'll keep 'em busy.

You can hike the **Hopewell Furnace Trail** when the creek's low to see the remnants of it. It's a tough hike, couple of creek crossings, but worth it to feel that history under your boots.

And there's more to this place than just history and trails. Need a spot for a family get-together? The Yellow Creek Lodge is there, year-round, with a kitchen and a fireplace, room for 72 people. Or maybe the Captain John Struthers Pavilion for a big seasonal cookout, holds 96. The tennis and pickleball courts are open all year, dawn to dusk, no reservations needed. Same goes for the basketball courts and the playground. Plenty of picnic spots too. And if you like to fish, you can drop a line in the creek from March to November.

Whether you're looking to walk through history, get some fresh air, or just make some memories with the family, Yellow Creek Park is the kind of place that stays with you. It's got that true American spirit – a little grit, a lot of beauty, and a story waiting to be told. So go on, get out there and see it for yourself.



Scan Me

**Shore fishing** is permitted from March 1 – November 30.

HIKING TRAILS Hike one of Yellow Creek Park's 4 challenging trails: Wildcat Trail (0.3 mile/Difficult with hills and many steps), Yellow Creek Trail (0.3 mile/Moderate with small hills), Sandstone Cliffs Trail (0.3 mile/Difficult with hills and steps), and Hopewell Furnace Trail (0.8 mile/Difficult, with 2 creek crossings).

For hiking trails and more download OuterSpatial: Get Outside App





**Hopewell Furnace Trail** 



## ROTARY CARES



#### 9th Annual Taste of Struthers a Sold-Out Success!

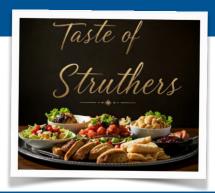
For the ninth time the Struthers community came together in a remarkable display of local pride and support for the Taste of Struthers event. The evening was a resounding success, selling out completely and proving once again that our city's appetite for great food and community connection is stronger than ever.

Over 400 guests filled the venue, eager to sample the incredible culinary offerings from sixteen of our finest local food vendors. From savory dishes to sweet treats, the variety and quality of the food were truly amazing, allowing attendees to connect with local businesses and discover new favorites. While guests enjoyed the food, Tangiers expertly managed the drink service for the evening.

Behind the scenes, dedicated Struthers Rotarians worked diligently to ensure every detail was perfect, contributing to the seamless flow of the event.

The excitement was enhanced by a series of raffles, which included over 48 gift cards from generous local businesses, a Fly the Flag subscription, Mr. November fine wine, and a lively 50/50 drawing.

It was a fun-filled night where residents and businesses came together to celebrate and appreciate the vibrant commercial fabric of our city. The Struthers Rotary extends its sincere gratitude to every guest, sponsor, and volunteer who made this



## A Special Thank You to Our 2025 Participating Vendors:

- Belleria Pizza Struthers
- Bogey's Bar and Grill
- Brier Hill Pizza & Wings
- Bruno Brothers Pizza- Struthers
- Donavito's Restaurant and Catering Co.
- Dunkin'
- Elmtree Catering
- Gianna's Event Catering
- Giannios Candy Company Inc.
- Maplecrest Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Mr. November
- Nemenz IGA
- Rip's Cafe
- Selah Restaurant
- Sr Jalapeno Struthers
- Tangier Bar & Pizza
- The Elmton



## **Membership**

#### Join Us in Creating a Better Future

By joining the Struthers Rotary Club, you will have the opportunity to network with like-minded professionals: Build strong relationships with individuals from various industries and backgrounds.

Give back to your community Make a tangible difference in the lives of others through our numerous service projects.

**Develop leadership skills:** Gain valuable experience in planning and executing community initiatives. Inspire the next generation: Mentor young people and help them reach their full potential. We believe that everyone has the power to make a difference. Join us as we work together to create a brighter future for Struthers.

**Are you ready to make a positive impact?** Contact us today to learn more about the Struthers Rotary Club. Dues cover administrative costs, meeting expenses, and other operational needs.

#### **\$80/6** months (**\$160**) yearly

Meetings are *optional* and held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at noon. These gatherings focus on networking, collaboration, planning, and decision-making. We occasionally host guest speakers.

#### **Members Anniversary**

- Tom Baringer Apr 01 1998
- Michael Krake Apr 01 1998
- Patty Fire Apr 24 2022
- George Horvat May 07 2024
- Jenna Agnone May 11 2021
- Jonathan Guerrier May 11 2021







Sign up for Emails about events

Interested in Joining
Struthers Rotary?
Email us:
StruthersRotary@aol.com
Message on FB Here

Or stop by a meeting, Struthers Rotary meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at noon. We meet at Mauthe Park meeting room.





## People of Action!!

The **St. Nick's Festival** has officially returned to Struthers! Facing a potential volunteer shortage, the **Struthers Rotary Club** has stepped up to ensure its success. This collaboration highlights Struthers' strong community spirit, promising a successful and festive event for all.









## **Speakers**



The June 3rd Struthers Rotary Club meeting hosted Tom Parteleno, owner of Parto's Golf Learning Center, introduced by his sister, Rotarian Eve Parteleno. Tom highlighted the diverse golf programs at their Coitsville-Hubbard Rd facility. including leagues, PGA-led instruction, and youth camps for ages 7-13. He also discussed "family days" to promote shared golfing experiences. A significant focus was the upcoming Annual Michael's Miracle Golf Outing on September 20th, dedicated to fighting Batten Disease, a rare and fatal neurological condition diagnosed in his son, Michael, in March 2020. The event aims to raise awareness and fund research for the disease. More information about Parto's is available at http:// www.partosbigongolf.com/ or by calling 239-404-1117. In recognition of Tom's presentation, a donation will be made in his name to the 2026 Rotary Scholarships for Struthers High School Students.





The Struthers Rotary Club's June 3rd meeting also featured Pastor Doug Theobald of Struthers Yellowcreek Methodist Church, hosted by Rotarian Sheri Noble. Pastor Theobald shared how his congregation rebuilt their faith community after their previous church disbanded, partnering with Struthers Christ Lutheran Church and other local churches.

He highlighted their impactful volunteer mission trips, focusing this year on rebuilding homes in impoverished Oak Hill, WV. These missions empower students with construction skills, supported by self-funded adults. Pastor Theobald actively fundraises for transportation, housing, and supplies, enabling the group to work tirelessly from 6 am to 4 pm daily, elevating living standards in underserved communities.

For more information on their mission programs, visit the Yellow Creek Methodist Church Facebook page at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/YellowCreekMethodistChurch">https://www.facebook.com/YellowCreekMethodistChurch</a>. Donations for mission trips can be sent to Yellow Creek Methodist Youth, 250 Sexton Street, Struthers, OH 44471. As a token of appreciation for his presentation, a donation will be made in Pastor Theobald's name to the 2026 Rotary Scholarships for Struthers High School Students.

## **Scholarship**

#### Struthers Rotary Club Celebrates 41 Years of Scholarship Support

The Struthers Rotary Club today hosted its annual Scholarship Luncheon, celebrating the academic achievements of local students and marking 41 years of unwavering commitment to education in the community. Over four decades, the Struthers Rotary has proudly awarded more than \$160,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

The Rotary's scholarship fund thrives thanks to the dedicated support of the community. Primary funding comes from the eagerly anticipated **annual Pancake Breakfast**, held every November. Additional contributions are made throughout the year through thoughtful donations in honor of guest speakers who address the club. This year, the fund received a notable boost from **Jordan Ryan of JAC Management**, who generously matched a \$100 donation.

Gianna's Event Catering provided a delightful meal for the luncheon. The Scholarship Committee, skillfully chaired by **Tom Baringer**, works in close collaboration with **Stephanie Mickler**, the advisor for the Struthers Schools Interact Club, to make these awards possible.

The Struthers Rotary Club extends its sincerest congratulations to the **2025 Rotary Scholarship Winners**:

- Vincent Boila
- Ava Croyle
- Nicholas Johnson
- Katelyn Kimble
- Isabella Sandusky
- Kaylyn Vlosich
- Mia Clyde

(Jednota (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association) Branch 682 Scholarship)







#### Meet a Rotarian





Bill as an undergraduate on a Canadian canoe excursion & as featured in the book Dads are the Original Hipsters by Brad Getty. 1968



Bill while working on his Ph.D. on Lake Michigan in Michigan & Wisconsin Service. 2012



Bill as a Youngstown State University Distinguished shoreland bluff recession Professor of Teaching and



Bill as an apparent aging tone deaf rock musician teaching his last semester at YSU during the covid-19 pandemic. 2021

#### Bill Buckler: A Life of Geography, Family, and Community

Like the air masses that shape our weather, I'm a non-native, having grown up in Detroit, Michigan, before moving to Poland, Ohio, in 1990. My move was prompted by becoming a faculty member at Youngstown State University, where I taught various physical geography courses, including Weather, Global Climates, Soils and Land Use, and Environmental Science, until my retirement in 2021. My diverse career history includes stints as a high-climbing tree trimmer (now, I'm afraid of heights!), an Army Drill Sergeant (against my personality), a brief period as a CIA spy analyst, and an almost-decapitated factory punch-press operator.

I met my wife, Ruth Ann, in graduate school at Michigan State University. We've been married 47 years, a commitment solidified when she moved into the apartment next to mine during my summer fieldwork. She also taught at YSU in Geology and Geography before retiring in 2021. We have three grown children: Tom, a GIS Analyst with the Ohio Department of Transportation; Daniel, an urban forester in Milwaukee with his wife Ashley and their two children, Laurel (4) and Wally (1); and Chrisa, a resource teacher at Volney Rogers Elementary School in Youngstown. Our dog, Bonnie, is my wife's "Lassie" companion, though I draw the line at "pooper-scooping" before moving the lawn!

While my identical twin brother in Detroit is perhaps more active in service, I've had my share of community involvement. For years, I co-led an ACS prostate cancer support group and served on the board of the ACS Poland Relay for Life. For 22 years, I led a national program with the American Meteorological Society, teaching hybrid graduate courses to K-12 teachers. The goal was to train resource teachers to promote science, math, and technology education using meteorology, climatology, oceanography, and hydrology as learning vehicles. After retiring, I sought new volunteer opportunities and found a welcoming home with Struthers Rotary in the fall of 2023. Their dedication to community well-being resonated with me, and it's been a pleasure to work alongside everyone.

I've always viewed retirement as a shift in orientation, not an end to endeavors. My goal is to have half the day planned and the other half open to spontaneity. Rotary fits perfectly into this mix. I'm also a 23-year active board member of the Lowellville Rod and Gun Club and hope to pick up trout fishing again, a hobby on standby since the pandemic. I play golf (usually poorly) twice a week with YSU retirees and others and am active in the YSU Retirees Association. (I even created a home physical therapy room for my back pain, just to keep golfing!) I'm part of a group of six who meet every two weeks for breakfast and laughter. Each month, I join a gathering of retired YSU professors where one gives a talk on a topic of interest. Recently, I joined the W.W. II Heritage Society, which meets monthly for talks on various aspects of World War II.

I've always had a basement shop, but during the pandemic, I bought a new power tool each month to lift my spirits. After the pandemic, my brother and I insulated and paneled my garage, expanding my shop for more efficient use in retirement. Now, I enjoy puttering in the shop, creating wooden toys for my grandkids and making improvements to my 1941 homestead. However, I'm still not keen on gardening or lawn care.

As a geographer, I love to travel and have visited 46 U.S. states. Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, and Rhode Island are still on my horizon. My bucket list includes witnessing an erupting volcano and standing on a glacier (Iceland is a strong possibility!). Sadly, visiting the bottom of the deep ocean is less likely. My son Dan, also a traveler (though currently slowed by young children), will spread some of my ashes globally after I'm cremated.

At 78, retirement for me signifies continued active participation, friendships, social involvement, family commitment, intellectual engagement, and community well-being, always with the preservation and betterment of future generations in mind.

A vibrant summer arts program is set to kick off its third year, bringing creativity and mentorship to 60 elementary students in Struthers. The program, run by dedicated Struthers Middle School teacher Amber Bonilla, promises six weeks of artistic exploration for

fourth grade.

The free program is thoughtfully structured to cater to different age groups, with 30 campers from kindergarten to second grade meeting from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM, and another 30 campers from third and fourth grade attending from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM each Thursday. Each week will revolve around a different engaging theme, including imaginative monsters, the science of bubbles, and a vibrant celebration of bright colors. In a nod to community values, one week will be dedicated to a lesson on "Service Above Self," the motto of the Rotary.

A key component of the program's success is the mentorship provided by approximately 10 middle and high school counselors. These older students volunteer their time to assist and guide the younger campers, fostering a sense of community and leadership. The program is further supported by the tireless efforts of four dedicated volunteers: Mary Dorney, Ellen Unger, and Maribeth and Ryan Goist.

The culmination of the students'



hard work and creativity will be an art showcase on the evening of Thursday, July 17th, at 6:00 PM. This special event will display the multiple projects completed by the young artists throughout the six-week program.

The art showcase is scheduled to coincide with the popular "Music in the Park" series, creating a wonderful community celebration of the arts. As families and friends gather to admire the children's artwork, they will also be treated to a live performance by the beloved local band, The Decades.

Programs like this are possible in large part due to the incredible support from the community for the Struthers Rotary Club's year-long fundraising efforts. The funds raised through popular events such as the Lucky Duck Race in August, the Pancake Breakfast in November, the Taste of Struthers in April, and the Fly the Flag program which kicks off in May, are reinvested directly into the community, supporting amazing initiatives like this summer arts program.





### Rebel with a cause

A group of compassionate Struthers Middle School students, including 8th grader Addyson Dubos and 7th graders Ella Dunlap, Pyper Lobo-Medeiros, Jas'zalyn Branham-Pippen, Alina Krake, Alana Quattro, Mariah Flores, and Timmy Hicks, initiated "Soft Security," a project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Struthers.

Their goal was to provide comfort and companionship to children facing long hospital stays at Akron Children's Hospital in Boardman, OH, by donating stuffed animals and other wishlist items, offering emotional support and a sense of connection during difficult times.



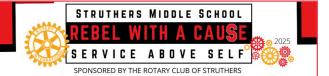
A service project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Struthers to spark youth, family, and community involvement.

Over 100 projects were submitted by Struthers Middle School Students. The major themes we found students wanting to support were:

- Animal shelters

- Animal sneuers
  Nursing homes
  Bullying/mental health support at school
  Basketball hoop installed at Mauthe Park
  Playground at SMS
  Make no sew blankets for people in nursing homes, hospitals or
- foster care Stuffed animal buddies for kids in the hospital
- Chess club for students Cards/care packages for military Police & fire care packages

- Police & fire care packages
  Family/community garden for students and families
  Sensory spaces at SMS
  Hosting a formal dinner event for community members and having students serve and provide hospitality
  Hosting a family fun night
  Hosting a craft night for students and families
  Clothing/shoe drives for people who cannot afford them
  Supporting people who are experiencing homelessness



Students on a Mission: Giving Back to Our Community

A group of compassionate middle school students has taken action to support students has taken action to support those in need by launching a heartfelt service project for the Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley. Seventh graders Alex Greenwalt, Layla Wildes, and Payton Benson, along with eighth graders Landon Fox and Esteban Valentin, led the initiative as part of their school's community outreach program.

Motivated by a shared desire to make a difference, the students assist the Rescue Mission, which provides shelter, food, and hope to individuals and families facing homelessness in the Mahoning Valley

The students shared... "We wanted to help people who don't have the basic things we often take for granted," "The Rescue Mission does so much good for the community, and we wanted to be





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Struthers Police and Fire: Struthers Students Show Gratitude to Honor Local Heroes

group of students from Struthers Middle School came together to lead a meaningful service project in honor of our city's first responders. Jaelyn Jacubec, Gabby Coldsnow, Joshua Curd, Gianna Faunda, Aaron Mineo, Shane Randall, and Bryce Ostavitz worked as a team to create care packages for the Struthers Police and Fire Departments, showing appreciation for the everyday sacrifices made by these local heroes

The care packages included snacks and drinks to give a little boost during long shifts. To make their project even more personal, they wrote heartfelt letters to both the police and fire departments. These letters were filled with words of thanks, encouragement, and admiration for the bravery and dedication shown by these public servants.

"Our goal was to let the police officers and firefighters know how much we appreciate everything they do for our community," said one student. "We wanted them to feel supported and valued.'







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## Students Show Gratitude to Veterans with Care Packages and Cards

In a powerful demonstration of gratitude and community spirit, students from Mrs. Sanna's 7th grade classes recently completed a meaningful service project aimed at supporting the veterans at the VA Hospital of Youngstown. Their mission: to honor those who have served by creating thoughtful care packages and heartfelt, handmade cards. The project began as part of a classroom initiative to teach the value of service, compassion, and civic responsibility.

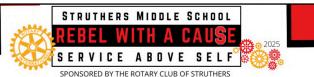






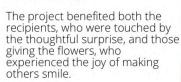
2025

**66** The Youth Of Today Are The Leaders Of Tomorrow NELSON MANDELA



Blooming Smiles: Struthers Students Spread Joy at Maplecrest with Flower Handout

Motivated by a genuine desire to make a difference, 8th grade students from Struthers Middle School—Gino Coppola, William Bradley, and Carly Crawfordcame together to brighten the day of the residents at Maplecrest. Their mission was simple yet powerful: to show that even the smallest gesture, like handing out flowers, can bring warmth and happiness to someone's day.









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#### Adorable Adoptions: Struthers Students Help Shelter Pets Feel at Home



Students in Mrs. Hilderbrand's 8th grade classes made an impact with their service project, Adorable Adoptions, supporting Animal Charity of Ohio.



The students created "just adopted" gift bags for cats and dogs leaving the shelter. Each bag includes food and water bowls, toys to ease anxiety, a handmade bandana, and a handwritten thank-you note for the new pet owners.



The project helps pets feel more at ease in their new homes while celebrating the families who chose adoption. It's a small gesture with a big impact—spreading kindness to both animals and the people who care for them.





"Rotary's **PROGRAMS**FOR YOUNG LEADERS
extend our ideals of service, friendship, and leadership development beyond the doors of our clubs. And when we serve with and for them... it brings out the BEST IN ROTARY."

# Rotary 4 Club of Struthers



Young Changemaker Creates Blankets of Hope for Foster Youth

Ellianna Bonilla, an 8th grade student at Struthers Middle School, is on a heartfelt mission to bring comfort and kindness to children in foster care—one blanket at a time.

Inspired by a desire to make a difference in the lives of children facing uncertainty and change, Ellianna began a personal service project: recruiting her friends to help her with creating handmade fleece blankets to donate to local foster care organizations. Her goal is simple yet powerful—to provide warmth, security, and a reminder that someone cares. Blankets will be delivered to Mahoning County Children Services.





Dedicated to comforting children in foster care!



Sensory Spaces: Struthers Student Demonstrates the Power of a Peaceful Space

This service project idea from our very own, Ella Mercer, involved creating sensory spaces for grades 5 through 8 at SMS. These spaces were made for students who might feel overwhelmed, anxious, or just need a break during the day. They're calm, comfortable, and full of helpful tools to help them reset-like fidget toys, flexible seating, wobble boards, and sound machines with peaceful light shows. Every item was chosen with care to help students reset and recharge, feeling more focused and ready to learn. We're deeply thankful to the Rotary Club for making this happen and for believing in the importance of student well-being.



## Struthers Rotary Club Honored with Four Awards at District 6650 Conference

The Struthers Rotary Club was well-represented at the 2025 Rotary District 6650 Conference on May 24th, with Struthers Rotarian Carol Crytzer, Struthers Rotary President Drew Hirt, and Past President and Struthers Rotarian Karen Edwards in attendance. The club proudly received four awards for its outstanding work during the 2024-2025 Rotary year. The awards highlight the Struthers Rotary Club's dedication to various Rotary initiatives:

- Peacebuilder Club Recognition: Struthers Rotary
  was among only seven of the forty-six District 6650
  clubs to be recognized for their commitment to
  becoming a Peacebuilder Club, furthering the
  cause of world peace.
- Environmental Enhancement and Operation
   Pollination: The club placed in the top 5 in a district-wide competition measuring commitment to environmental enhancement and the implementation of Rotary's Operation Pollination.
- Struthers Summer Arts Camp Sponsorship: The Struthers Rotary Club was recognized for its sponsorship of the Struthers Summer Arts Camp, an initiative that educates Struthers youth in the arts and serves the broader community.
- Club Excellence Award: For its numerous activities throughout the year that exemplify the Rotary motto "Service Above Self," the Struthers Rotary Club received a Club Excellence Award.

These accolades underscore the Struthers Rotary Club's significant contributions to both local and global Rotary goals.

#### **Rotarians Connect Across States, Building Goodwill**

Local Rotarians recently hosted Bob and Leona Malone from The Woodlands, Texas, for a heartwarming gettogether focused on strengthening friendships and exchanging ideas.

Bob Malone, a Struthers native, reconnected with old acquaintances and shared insights with fellow Rotarians. The informal session highlighted Rotary's enduring spirit, where connections transcend geographical boundaries. This friendly convergence underscored Rotary's powerful network, uniting individuals dedicated to making a positive impact, one friendship and idea at a time.





Left; Rotarian Carol Cryzter, Middle; Rotary President 24-25 Drew Hirt, Right; Rotarian Karen Edwards









## A few more things...

#### **Donations & Sponsorships**

- ▶ \$250 Struthers PTO
- ▶ \$250 Struthers Public library
- ▶ \$1500 Michael's Miracle
- ▶ \$1,000 Mission Trip
- ▶ \$1000 Haiti lunch Program
- ▶ \$2300 Rebel with a cause
- ▶ \$8000 Scholarships
- ▶ \$5000 Summer Art camp
- St. Nicks Festival Bands \$1000

Struthers Rotary Club is a proud sponsors of the Struthers Baseball League

# Struthers Rotary Lucky Duck Race

A Community Fundraiser Full of Fun & Prizes!

#### **Event Details**

Entry Limit: Limited to 1,000
Entries

Ticket Price: \$5.00 per Ticket

Winners: Top 13 Finishers
WIN Cash

**Cash Prizes** 

1st Place: \$500.00 2nd Place: \$200.00 3rd Place: \$100.00 Ten \$20.00

winners

Be sure to stop by! It's fun for everyone!

**Basket Raffles** 

50/50

And more..."



Scan here to purchase your tickets today













