

The official magazine of Stow and Munroe Falls

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Spring 2024



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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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To place an ad in our next magazine, email Andy Isaacs at communityconnection@cjn.org or call 216-342-5193.

On the Cover
 Submitted Photo

Fox 8 News Cleveland Meteorologist Mackenzie Bart Visits SMFHS

Students at Stow-Munroe Falls High School were treated to a special visit from Fox 8 meteorologist Mackenzie Bart on Groundhog Day this year.

Bart's engaging presentation covered a range of topics, from meteorology and career paths to her own experiences as a broadcast meteorologist.

During her visit, Bart delved into the world of meteorology, discussing weather balloons and how they collect vital data.

She also explained the process of interpreting weather data and the behind-the-scenes operations of a newscast, including the use of weather models and green screen technology.

Drawing from her experience covering Hurricane Irma, Bart also shared insights into the challenges and rewards of reporting on severe weather events.

Groundhog Day holds personal significance for Bart, who compared statistics between Punxsutawney Phil and Buckeye Chuck with students, revealing Buckeye Chuck's more accurate predictions.

Students eagerly asked questions, seeking advice on pursuing careers in meteorology and gaining insight into Bart's own experiences.

When asked about the biggest challenge



of being a meteorologist, Bart highlighted the unpredictable nature of Lake Erie. She also expressed her love for snow when questioned about her favorite weather.

In a delightful conclusion to her presentation, Bart brought out her puppet, Roxy, with whom she demonstrated her ventriloquy skills. Together, Bart and Roxy charmed the audience with a rendition of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," leaving

students inspired and entertained.

The visit, organized by teachers Erica Peterre and Laura Kucko, provided students with a unique opportunity to engage with a prominent figure in the field of meteorology.

With her expertise, passion, and puppetry skills, Mackenzie Bart left an indelible impression on the students of Stow-Munroe Falls High School.

PIZZA PALOOZA

Pizza Palooza returned to Stow-Munroe Falls High School for its eighth year, presented by the Stow Munroe Falls Community Foundation (SMFCF). The event, known as the largest family food fest in Stow, took place on Sunday, Feb. 4 from noon to 3 p.m.

Featuring a lineup of renowned pizzerias including Altieri's Pizza, Bellacino's Pizza and Grinders, East of Chicago Pizza, Paisan's Pizzeria, Romeo's Pizza, Jet's Pizza, Papa John's, Twisted Tomato Pizzeria, and El Campesino Mexican pizza, Pizza Palooza offered a diverse selection of flavors. In response to dietary needs, gluten-free pizza was also available.

At Pizza Palooza, Altieri's Pizza won the

People's Choice award, Bellacino's Pizza claimed the Judges' Choice, and Jet's Pizza took home the Kids' Choice title. Their delicious offerings delighted attendees and showcased their culinary excellence at the event.

With a turnout of around 3,000 attendees, Pizza Palooza provided an opportunity for pizza enthusiasts to cast their votes in the People's Choice and Kid's Choice competition, with a Judges' Choice also in the mix. Winners received custom-crafted wooden pizza paddles courtesy of the high school wood STEM class.

Proceeds from the event supported mini-grants for teachers within the Stow Munroe



Falls School District.

Previous grants have funded initiatives such as the Caring Closet at Lakeview School, technology enhancements, flexible seating solutions, book acquisitions, 3D printing resources, and programs promoting inclusivity.

Hosted in the high school commons and gymnasium located at 3227 Graham Road, Stow, Pizza Palooza provided a fun-filled opportunity for the community to come together and enjoy delicious food.



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SPEED AND SUCCESS

LILY IMPELLIZZERI'S JOURNEY

Lily Impellizzeri, a 15-year-old student at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, is making a name for herself in the competitive world of Bandolero race car driving, before she is even eligible for her learner's permit. Her journey into racing began with a simple birthday wish for a racing video game, sparking a passion that has propelled her to success on the track.

Lily's interest quickly transitioned to real-world go-karting. Her natural talent behind the wheel became evident during family outings, where she consistently outpaced her competitors, including her own father.

Impressed by Lily's skills, her family decided to help her take her passion to the next level by introducing her to Bandolero racing. Since then, Lily has achieved great success, including two consecutive Ohio State Championships and setting track records for the fastest lap times.

Despite her young age, Lily approaches racing with determination. Balancing her rigorous training schedule with her academic commitments at Stow-Munroe Falls High



School, she remains focused on her goals both on and off the track.

Lily is determined to continue her winning streak and make a name for herself on the national stage. With the support of her family and a dedicated team behind her, she's poised to leave a lasting impression in

the world of motorsport.

Looking ahead, Lily's future in racing holds endless potential. Who knows, we may see Lily Impellizzeri's cow car in the Daytona 500 one day soon!



Upcoming Events

- March 13 - Coffee, Biz, Connect
- March 19 - State of the Cities Luncheon
- March 20 - Local Business Roundtable
- April 4 - Woman2Woman Lunch Series
- April 10 - Coffee, Biz, Connect
- April 16 - Biz & Brews
- April 25 - Tours @4 at TTR
- May 8 - Coffee, Biz, Connect
- May 15 - The Elite Business Awards

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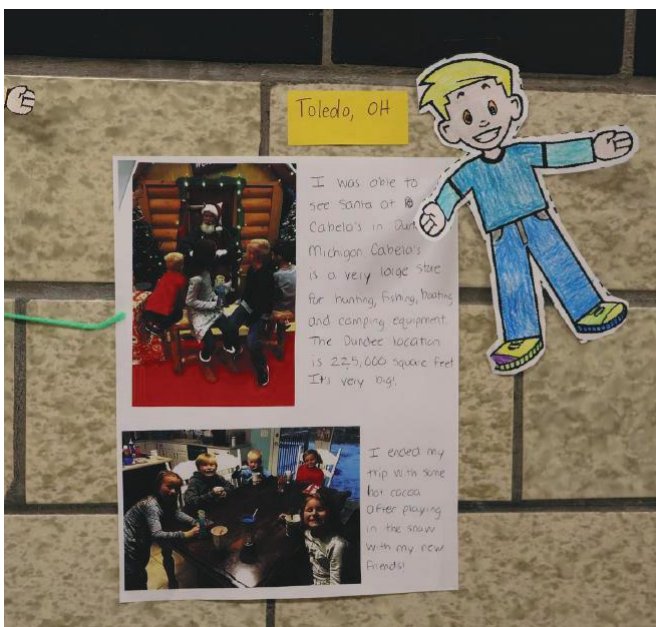
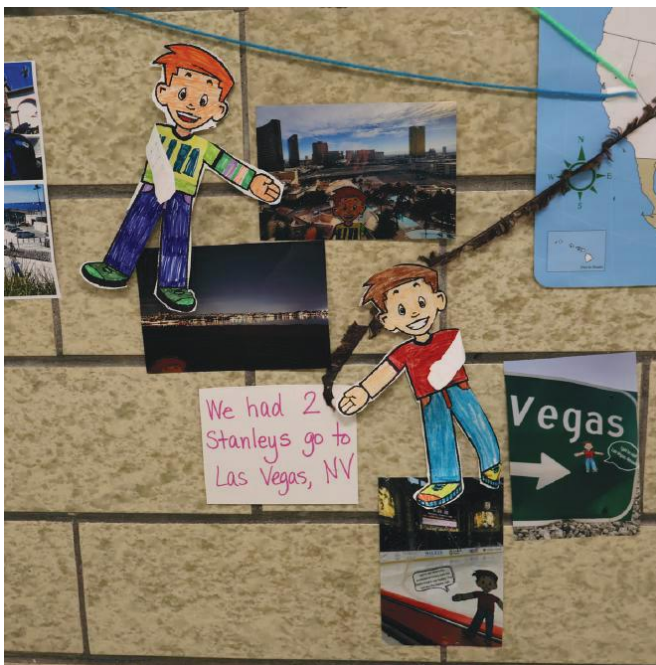
HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY'S FLAT STANLEY PROJECT TAKES ON THE WORLD

Highland Elementary's third-grade class recently embarked on an exciting journey through the beloved Flat Stanley Project. Inspired by Jeff Brown's classic tale, students crafted their own Flat Stanleys, sending them off to friends and family far and wide.

As the paper doll characters ventured out into the world, they became the stars of countless adventures. From exploring the enchanting glow of Toledo's lights to rubbing shoulders with dignitaries at the White House Christmas party, Flat Stanley's escapades knew no bounds.

Back at Highland, excitement mounted as the class received updates from their globetrotting companions. Each photo and story shared by recipients brought the world a little closer, fostering a love for literacy and cultural exploration.

Jen McGovern, the enthusiastic teacher behind the project, beamed with pride as her students' Flat Stanleys made headlines with their unforgettable exploits. The project served as a testament to the power of imagination and connection, proving that even a flat paper doll can inspire curiosity and joy in hearts around the world.



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Holocaust Survivor Visits Kimpton Middle School

'Those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it.'

Holocaust survivor Helen Marks uses that quote as motivation for her to tell her story whenever, wherever, and to whoever she can. On Nov. 8, students at Kimpton Middle School had the pleasure of watching a video of Marks giving a lecture about her story, her life and the experiences she's been through during the World War II.

On Nov. 15, the students had a chance to meet with Helen virtually to ask her questions and learn more about her experiences during the war, and adjusting back into the world after the war. With Helen being one of the youngest survivors of the Holocaust, being only 1½ years old when her and her mom escaped the concentration camp, Helen had a lot of memories of her family and the stories they would tell.

Students asked Helen about her experiences with her family, how she came to America, and the similarities and differences in her childhood versus that of the students. One of the stories that touched the students was the fact that Helen's mother gave her to a couple thinking she'd have a better chance of surviving than if she was with her mom. Helen was essentially raised by two strangers during the war and after she was reunited with her parents. Helen didn't remember her father and had to accept at an older age that this survivor is her real dad. It's important for stories like Helen's to be told to students, especially when we're losing more and more of the generation that experienced these events. It was such a pleasure to have Helen talk to our students and answer their questions.

Helen left the kids with, "If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem."



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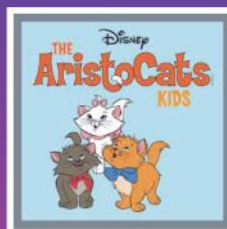


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Rehearsals held Monday - Friday.
DATES: June 17 - 28
TIME: 9 am - 4pm
TUITION: \$399

AGES 8-14



PRESS START transports us inside the bright, pixelated world of video games! When the famous characters we know and love run out of life, they put on a musical fundraiser to help them raise gold rings and play on. This full-day camp is two weeks long and ends with a performance on Saturday, August 3rd. Two tickets to the performance included in tuition cost

Rehearsals held Monday - Friday
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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

MARCH

Monday, March 18, 2024

Board of Education Meeting @ Fishcreek 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Professional Development Day - No School for Students

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

LV - Facility Planning Q&A Event 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 21, 2024

HS - Jazz Concert 7 p.m.

Monday, March 25, 2024 - Friday, March 29, 2024

Spring Break - No School

APRIL

Monday, April 1, 2024

Conference Day - No School

Monday, April 8, 2024

Solar Eclipse Day - No School

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Board of Education Meeting (Work Session) @ Central Office 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Stow Fox Den Driving Range Ribbon Cutting, Fox Den Golf Course 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Stow Super Hero Training, Leona Farris Lodge 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Stow Meadowbrook Lake Ribbon Cutting, Meadowbrook Lake Park 11:00

Monday, April 22, 2024

Board of Education Meeting @ Highland, 6 p.m.

Friday, April 26, 2024

HS - All School Musical Senior Citizen Show - The Wizard of Oz 9 a.m.
HS - All School Musical - The Wizard of Oz 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Stow Connect with Nature Earthfest, Adell Durbin 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Saturday, April 27, 2024

HS - All School Musical - The Wizard of Oz 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

HS - All School Musical - The Wizard of Oz 2 p.m.

SCHOOL KEY

EH-Echo Hills Elementary
HL-Highland Elementary
FC- Fishcreek Elementary

IT-Indian Trail Elementary
RV- Riverview Elementary
WD-Woodland Elementary

LV- Lakeview Intermediate School
KP-Kimpton Middle School
HS-SMF High School

Join us for our Senior Programs

<https://stowohio.org/senior-adult-programs/>

City of Stow Events, visit FuninStow.com for details and registration information.

MAY

Thursday, May 2, 2024

HS - Senior Banquet 6 p.m.

Friday, May 3, 2024

HS - Student Council's Princess Dance 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Stow Fishing Derby (Youth Event), Heritage Barn
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Saturday, May 4, 2024

HS Band Tag Day 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
HS - American Band Celebration Concert @ HS 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

No School

Saturday, May 11, 2024

HS - Grand March 4 p.m.
Senior Prom - 7 - 10 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

HS - Choir Concert 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

HS - Band Concert 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 16, 2024

HS - Senior Scholarship Program 7 p.m.

Friday, May 17, 2024

Stow Wine & Design: Wheel Rounds, Leona Farris Lodge
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Stow Team Up to Clean up, City Wide

Monday, May 20, 2024

Board of Education Meeting @ Indian Trail 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 23, 2024

HS Commencement 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Stow Concert on the Green - "My Friend Jack,"
City Center Green 6 - 8 p.m.

Monday, May 27, 2024

Stow Memorial Day Ceremony 9 a.m.

Monday, May 27, 2024

Memorial Day - No School

Thursday, May 30, 2024

Last Student Day

JUNE

Saturday, June 7, 2024

Stow Concert on the Green - "The Cover Band,"
City Center Green 6 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Playing & Pages Pop Up in the Park, Wetmore Park
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Stow Yoga on the Green, City Cente Green

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Stow Yoga on the Green, City Cente Green 6 - 7 p.m.

Friday, June 21, 2024

Stow Concert on the Green - TBD, City Center Green
6 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Stow Team Up to Clean up, City Wide

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Joshua Stow Festival, Heritage Barn

Monday, June 24, 2024

Board of Education Meeting @ Central Office 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Stow Yoga on the Green, City Cente Green 6 - 7 p.m.

Friday-Sunday, June 28-30

Stow Pickleball Tournament, Silver Springs and Adell
Durbin Courts

JULY

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Stow Firecracker Run (3K & 4mile race), Holy Family/Kent
Rd 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, July 4, 2024

Stow 4th of the July Parade, Target Plaza to Holy Family
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Friday, July 5, 2024

Stow Concert on the Green - "Sudden Change,"
City Center Green 6 - 8 p.m.

Saturday or Sunday, July 6 or 7, 2024

Fun In Stow Splash Bash, City Center Green 1 - 4 p.m.

Stow-Munroe Falls High School Celebrates Student Athletes Signing Day

In a proud display of support for their student athletes, Stow-Munroe Falls High School celebrated as several standout students signed letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Among those honored were Makenzie Gash, who committed to Kent State University to play lacrosse, and Amber Shinsky, who signed with Rider University, also for lacrosse. Sara Cserynik is set to join St. Francis University to play soccer, while Emma Oshel secured her spot at Malone University for softball. Victoria Ganey is headed to Ohio Northern University to compete in track and field, and Kenna Sackett will be joining Marietta College for soccer.

In a testament to her dedication and talent, Jayla Atkinson inked her commitment to the University of Kentucky for track and cross country. Dylan Fink will be headed to Malone University for lacrosse. Gabby Berlingieri is set to tee off at Walsh University for

golf and Deena Ingrassia will be hitting the track and cross country trails at Cleveland State University.

The signing ceremony, held at Stow-Munroe Falls High School, was filled with pride and excitement as family, friends, coaches, and faculty gathered to celebrate the achievements of these accomplished student athletes. Each student was praised not only for their athletic abilities, but also for their dedication to academics and their contributions to the school community.

The signing ceremony served as a reminder of the strong tradition of athletic excellence at Stow-Munroe Falls High School and the unwavering support of the community behind its student athletes. As these students embark on the next chapter of their athletic journeys, they carry with them the pride and support of the entire Stow-Munroe Falls community.

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Eagle Scout Project Creates Lasting Memories at Riverview Elementary

Bryan Harper started his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in first grade at his elementary school, Riverview Elementary. He continued as he became a Boy Scout in fifth grade and has successfully completed his Eagle Scout project in the courtyard at Riverview. He will graduate from SMFHS this year, and has already applied (and been accepted) to numerous colleges and universities.

He made lifelong friends and amazing memories from his kindergarten through fourth grade years at Riverview. He shares one favorite with Mrs. K - Snuggle Up and Read! Bryan has fond memories of Ms. Cugini every day and especially during Scooter Town. He also loved Mrs. Postak's Japan Day.

To attain the Eagle Scout rank, Bryan must complete an Eagle Project, demonstrating leadership within his community. He chose to create an outdoor gathering place and in talking with Mrs. Kosmach decided the courtyard was the perfect place to build a deck for Team Riverview students and staff to enjoy.

Some of his former Riverview classmates were part of his construction crew. Bryan was a consummate leader for his project and directed the build. He learned a lot about construction and priced the necessary materials. Bryan is grateful to have been able to give back to Riverview, where he started his school years!



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Four Kimpton Middle Schoolers Took on the 16th Annual Rubber Band Contest

Four Kimpton Middle Schoolers took on the 16th Annual Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors at The University of Akron. The students were challenged to design and create a functional invention or art piece that incorporates at least one rubber band. Once completed, students wrote a brief message and submitted pictures of their creations for judging.

The Akron Global Polymer Academy, a branch of the University of Akron's School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, established the competition in 2008. Its annual goals are to foster interest in polymers among students and draw them into the fascinating realm of STEAM education (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics). The design process, problem-solving, research, communication and innovation are highlighted in

this immersive learning project.

In the Science and Engineering Division of the contest:

- Nate Miezen and Carson Murphy created the "Golf Ball Dispenser 3000"
- Brayden Phillips invented the "Cold Drink Creator"
- Sa'mya Rose developed the "Balloon/Cup Drum"

In the Arts and Leisure Division of the contest:

- Zoey Kuzemchak created the "Hanging Flower Basket"

"I'm really proud that all of these students followed through on the whole process and ended up with some great inventions/artwork!" Catherine Howard, Kimpton science teacher and team 7-2 adviser, said.

The students will find out if they advance to round 2 in March, so stay tuned and wish them luck!

Exciting News: Transforming Stow's Future with the New Community Center!

The City of Stow has acquired the former Cornerstone Church, 5344 Fishcreek Road in Stow and plans for it to serve as the NEW senior center. The property aligns well with the City's needs to provide a facility for fun, active, social programs and events for what is the largest segment of the City's population. The new property/facility offers a considerable upgrade to the current Senior Center with over 8,000 square feet of space, enabling it to serve a larger population and facilitate a wider array of programs, accommodating up to 533 individuals.

Mayor John Pribonic expressed his support for acquiring this facility and property, acknowledging the urgent need to address the shortcomings of the current senior center. A decision was made last year not to propose a levy for a comprehensive community recreation center, as property taxes for residents were already due to be increased for other reasons, including recent property reappraisals. However, the improvement of the current senior center remained a priority. Mayor Pribonic affirmed that this facility and property would significantly contribute to meeting the City's immediate needs.

The facility is a very clean and well-maintained one-level building with the convenience of no steps. The main entrance offers a protective canopy and a drive-thru under that canopy. Once inside the front doors, a large welcome area/foyer awaits. A large main room that served as the church sanctuary can accommodate 260 guests. There is also a medium sized room, smaller classrooms, a large Kitchen, and 2 offices. Outside includes ample parking and an outbuilding for storage. The City administration is currently meeting to plan and start the upgrades needed before the grand opening later this summer.

The acquisition of this facility will furnish the City of Stow with a specialized indoor venue for recreational programs and events. Presently, the City possesses only the current senior center as a dedicated space. The City's main objectives consist of relocating existing senior programs to the new senior center, growing the

current array of senior programs, utilizing the space for other parks and recreation programs, and ensuring availability for other municipal needs and meetings.



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PATRICK GOCLANO
TREASURER AND CFO

You probably looked at your most recent property tax bill and wondered why it increased and where are my tax dollars going?

Summit County recently completed a triennial property reappraisal that resulted in an increase in valuation for many property owners. **Stow-Munroe Falls School District** received additional funds due to the reappraisal, in part due to the levies approved **in November 2022 and the spring of 2023**, and also due to **Ohio's 20-mill floor law**.

KEY TERMS

Millage/Mill - Unit of value representing a rate used to calculate property taxes in Ohio; equal to 1/10th of a penny (.001)

Inside Millage - Mills shared by local governments without a vote of the people, also known as the 10-mill limit. Stow- Munroe Falls has 4.74 inside mills.

Outside Millage - All mills in excess of the 10-mill inside millage which need to be approved by voters, also known as voted mills.

Effective Millage - The rate of taxation, expressed in mills multiplied by the assessed value, raises the same dollar amount that was voted. Since 1976, House Bill 920 established reduction factors that prohibited an inflationary increase in the amount of taxes levied against real property.

TREASURER'S CORNER: WHAT IS THE 20-MILL FLOOR?

In 1976, Ohio approved **House Bill 920 (H.B. 920)**. The purpose of H.B. 920 was to protect the voters from inflation increasing voted taxes. H.B. 920 takes affect when property values increase due to inflation, such as the update every 3 years or the reappraisal performed every 6 years by **the Summit County Fiscal Office**. H.B. 920 freezes a school district's income on voted mills. This means that even when home values increase, a school district's revenue remains the same.

State law also states that a district's effective current expense millage rate, inside and outside millage combined, cannot fall below 20 mills. This is referred to as **the 20-mill floor**. If property owners receive an increase in valuation once a district reaches the 20-mill floor, school districts will receive an increase in funding. The 20-mill floor does not apply to bond, emergency or income tax levies, which are collected outside of the 20 mill limit.

The table below is for a home in the Stow-Munroe Falls School District valued at **\$223,570**. Taxes are assessed at **35%**, or for an assessed value of **\$78,250**. The 2023 rate for the school district has decreased, yet the amount collected increased. This is due to the 20-mill floor.

Taxing District	Tax Year 2022		Tax Year 2023		Increase/ Decrease
	Rate	Amount	Rate	Amount	
STOW CITY	9.50	\$501.24	9.50	\$650.45	\$149.21
STOW MUNROE FALLS CSD	45.52	\$2,466.04	40.54	\$2,842.53	\$376.49
STOW MUNROE FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY	1.61	\$84.70	1.29	\$88.08	\$3.38
SUMMIT COUNTY	12.16	\$651.18	9.80	\$680.61	\$29.43
SUMMIT METRO PARKS	1.75	\$96.35	1.33	\$95.42	(\$0.93)
Total:	70.53	\$3,799.51	62.46	\$4,357.09	\$557.58

ROX: Ruling Our Experiences

Kimpton Middle School recently hosted a self-defense training session as part of the ROX program, standing for Ruling Our Experiences.

Founded by Dr. Lisa Hinkelman in 2006, ROX aims to empower girls with essential skills for navigating adolescence.

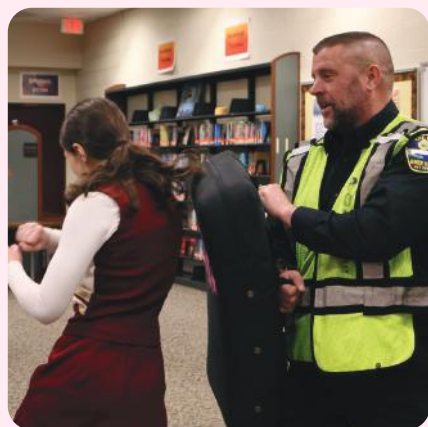
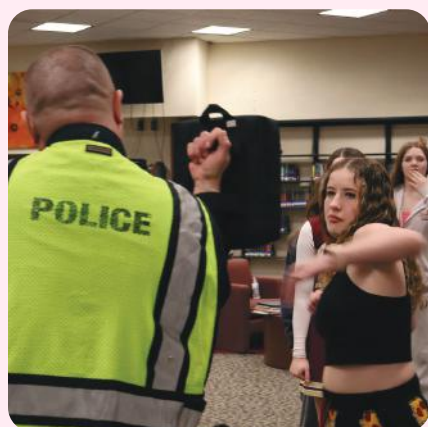
The session, held in the school's media center, provided a safe space for girls to

learn and practice self-defense techniques, highlighting ROX's commitment to holistic empowerment. Emphasizing healthy relationships and effective communication, ROX addresses issues like bullying and social media use, equipping girls with valuable strategies.

With a focus on research and evaluation, ROX continuously refines its curriculum

to ensure effectiveness. Implemented nationwide, ROX reaches thousands of girls annually, fostering environments where they can thrive.

The group hopes to build confidence in students at Kimpton Middle School and inspire them to take up space.



BRIDGING GENERATIONS: THE SILVER BULLDOGS PROGRAM

At the heart of Stow-Munroe Falls City School District, a unique initiative is bringing generations together. The Silver Bulldogs Program is not just about volunteering; it's about creating meaningful relationships that enrich the lives of both seniors and students alike.

Paula Moon, a dedicated Silver Bulldog, shares her motivation for joining the program:

“The reason I wanted to be a Silver Bulldog is because I had time to get involved with a new job, and what better way to spend that than in the same school district that my grandchildren attend. I thought it would be fun to get to be around them and other children.”



Paula's sentiment reflects the essence of the program – providing seniors with an opportunity to connect with students in a meaningful way.

Gene Haas, a seasoned educator with 35 years of experience teaching in Akron, found his way back to the classroom through the Silver Bulldogs Program.

“I taught in Akron for 35 years and retired in 2004,” Gene shares. “I learned about the Silver Bulldog Program and knew I wanted to get involved so I could come back and work with children again. I get to work all around the school buildings with kids who keep life fun and interesting.”

Gene's journey exemplifies the enduring passion many educators have for making a difference in the lives of young people, even after retirement.

For many seniors like Paula and Gene, volunteering in the Silver Bulldogs Program offers more than just an opportunity to give back; it's a chance to stay active, engaged, and connected to the community. By spending time with students, they not only enrich their lives but also find fulfillment in being a positive presence in their school environment.

Whether you're interested in volunteering or pursuing a paid position, there are various opportunities available within the Silver Bulldogs Program. From serving as a Noontime Assistant to becoming a Playground Buddy or Guest Reader for Early Literacy Groups, there's a role suited for every individual's interests and availability.

Every interaction, whether big or small, has the power to make a difference. By joining the Silver Bulldogs Program, seniors not only contribute to the academic and social development of students but also become valued members of the Stow-Munroe Falls community. Together, they are bridging generational divides and fostering a culture of compassion, empathy, and lifelong learning.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of our school buildings, please contact the main office at that particular building, and you can begin the process!

If you would like to apply for one of the paid positions in the Silver Bulldog Program at SMF Schools, please email us at SilverBulldogs@smfcsd.org or call Franca Padula at 330.689.5412.

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHARE LOVE OF PLANTS WITH YOUNGER STUDENTS

In a heartwarming collaboration, students from Stow-Munroe Falls High School recently embarked on a mission to cultivate a love for nature among younger generations.

Led by their dedicated science teacher, Mr. McMahan, these enthusiastic students visited all of the elementary schools, armed with a passion for plants and a desire to inspire, making a special impact at Lakeview Elementary School.

The highlight of the day was a hands-on demonstration where the high schoolers guided fifth-grade students in creating mini greenhouses from recycled milk jugs.

As the elementary students eagerly built their greenhouses, they listened

intently to the high schoolers' explanations about different types of plants and the importance of planting certain seeds.

With a focus on native plants and biodiversity, the high school students emphasized the role of plants in supporting local ecosystems.

But the project didn't end there. With the mini greenhouses now set up in the school's courtyard, both high school and elementary students eagerly await the arrival of spring, when they will return to plant the seedlings they've nurtured. Mr. McMahan couldn't hide his pride in his students and their dedication to environmental education.

As the high school students interacted with their younger counterparts, they were touched by the genuine enthusiasm and curiosity of the fifth graders. For them,

seeing the spark of interest in nature was the most rewarding part of the project.

Looking ahead, the high schoolers eagerly anticipate their return visit on May 2 to check on the progress of the plants. With each interaction, they hope to instill a lasting appreciation for nature and empower the next generation of environmental stewards.

Through initiatives like these, the students of Stow-Munroe Falls are not just cultivating plants; they're nurturing a sense of community, fostering mentorship, and sowing the seeds of a brighter, greener future for all.



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