



Issue: August 10 – August 16, 2025

Produced by Elliott Shaffer

SECTION 1 – COUNCIL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Meeting Date: August 5, 2025

Location: Fostoria City Council Chambers

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 6:31 p.m

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

- No new updates.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 19, 5:30 p.m., Council Chambers.

Public Affairs Committee – Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Location	Notes
Aug 6	Lunch on the Lawn – Rival BBQ & Melissa Pottinger	Noon–1 p.m.	Lawn / Rain: 125 Main St.	“Food is provided by Rival Barbecue and live music by Melissa Pottinger.”
Aug 6	Back to School Bash	5–7 p.m.	Jr./Sr. High School West Lot	Free community event
Aug 9	Free Movie Night: <i>Lilo & Stitch</i>	After 8 p.m.	Jackson Park	“Bring lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks... movie starts at dusk.”

Aug 10	Summer Concert Series – City Lights (Classic Rock)	7–8:30 p.m.	Wainwright Amphitheater	
Aug 16	Farmers & Artisan Market – “Healthy Living”	9 a.m.–1 p.m.	Downtown	Sponsored by ProMedica Fostoria Community Hospital
Aug 16	Urban Woody’s Summer Concert – Skittle Bots	6–10 p.m.	Urban Woody’s Brewery	
Aug 26	Public Meeting: South Town Street Grade Separation	4–7 p.m.	Fostoria Learning Center	“We’ll have updates for the public and answer questions.”

Law & Ordinance Committee

- No new updates.
 - **Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 19, 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers.
-

Reports of Officers

Mayor

- On volunteers for the inclusive playground: *"We had an excellent turnout, and I appreciate all the help."*
- On the PFAS matter: *"This program is similar to the opioid program... Fostoria is listed among the cities deemed likely to have PFAS in our water. Where they get their information, I have no idea."*

Director of Public Service & Safety – Eric Keckler

- On Portage Park shelter roof: *"That looks really nice out there if you haven't gotten a chance to see it."*
- On ODOT project and public concerns: *"We'll be working on getting you the contact for ODOT's public information officer... because we always get calls, especially right now, with the only way around being Columbus Avenue or way out around."*

Director of Law

- On water safety: *"We have been found to be under the allowable limit... it's not a health hazard."*
- On concerns about the PFAS law firm: *"If anyone looked at the retainer, there were quite a few typos... raised a bit of a red flag."*

- On cost structure: *“They emphasize that this would not cost anything on our end... if we turn out to not qualify for any funds, they don’t get any, we don’t get any.”*
-

Public Comments

1. Deb Tyson – 800 Woodward Avenue

- **Personal Announcement:** “I just wanted to let everyone know that I’m a great grandmother now. I have my great grandson. He was born July 20th and he’s healthy and so is his mommy, my granddaughter, my oldest.”
- **Resource Awareness Concern:** “A lot of people don’t know about the resources we have and I direct them to the city page... the city web page is very good and very excellent to help people. The Facebook, well... we gotta figure out how to communicate that to the general public because a lot of people do Facebook and that’s all I have.”
- **Pantry Needs:** “Pantry Plus, like any other pantry, is struggling. They can use donations to help. There are lines anytime you go. There are so many people needing, and they have to qualify, so that’s even more people when you think about it.”
- **Interest in Sharing Kitchen:** “I wish we knew something about the sharing kitchen because I think that would help a lot more people.”

- **Grief Share Program:** “August 26th it begins and it will run until just before Thanksgiving. It’s every Tuesday at 2 p.m.... It’s free and they really do help. I completed the course. It has helped me.”
-

2. Jill Filiator – 402 West Culbertson Street

- **Thanks for Tree Work:** “There was a tree on the city property that was taken down a few weeks back... the gentleman, they did an excellent job.”
- **Alley Vacation Concerns:** “I’ve been told that my property in between the alley is being vacated... and no, that isn’t true... I don’t know which ones they are... it would be nice if it’s identified as public records so people know what alleys you guys are talking about for being taken down.”
- **Event Promotion:** “There is an event coming on Friday the 15th from 7 to 9 here in downtown on Main Street. The Space Cats will be performing in the Off the Beaten Path Alley... bring your chairs and just partake.”
- **Downtown Communication Suggestion:** “It would be really nice if you guys could just keep us in the loop as business owners because without the business owners willing to put in that extra money... we’re not going to be able to grow.”
- **Parks & Recreation Fundraising Idea:** “When they were doing their tournaments, you had 300 plus people down there, and it is just so awesome to see the park back to where it was 30 years ago when I was growing up.”

3. Alison – 118½ West Center Street, Apt. 2

- **Records Commission Reminder:** “We have a records commission meeting coming up on the 21st at 2 p.m.... If there are any entities that have records to be disposed of, they should bring them to the meeting.”

4. Leigh Amanda Blair – 132 East 4th Street

- **Neglected Property Issues:** “One of my neighbors actually passed away in his home, and there is a tree that has fallen through the roof... We are having issues with bugs, mice... we have snakes all over.”
- **Dumpster Issue:** “They have a dumpster sitting out back there that has not been dumped in at least over a year... vegetation has grown up around it.”
- **Cost Burden Concern:** “I should not have to pay for this. I pay my property taxes. I should not have to deal with the other neighbors being disgusting and bugs and everything else coming into my home.”

5. Rebecca Kimball – Address on file

- **Condemned House & Overgrown Yard:** “It’s not been mowed at all this year... it is boob high... and that means more mosquitoes and stuff. I don’t want [them] eating my garden up.”
 - **Request for Action:** “It was on the list to be torn down... I’m just wondering what can be done with that.”
-

Legislation

Old Business

- **Resolution 2025-54** – Adopts tentative 2026 tax budget (*Passed 5–0*).
- **Ordinance 2025-55** – Vacates unnamed alley in 3rd Ward (*Passed 5–0*).
- Ordinance – Vacates unnamed alley in 4th Ward (*Second Reading*).
- Resolution – Transfers Ohio Ave. parcel to Seneca County Land Reutilization Corp. (*Second Reading*).

New Business (First Readings)

- **Street Sweeper Lease-Purchase** – “This will authorize financing for a new street sweeper.”

- **Financial Recovery Plan Amendment** – Adjusts 2025 recovery plan for state commission review.
 - **Appropriations Amendment** – Moves unappropriated general funds into budget lines.
 - **PFAS Legal Representation** – Authorizes law contract for possible remediation funding.
 - **Traffic Control Map Amendment** – Updates official city map.
-

Other Business

- Discussion on special meeting for recovery plan — decided to wait for next regular meeting.
 - No executive session.
-

Adjournment

Motion by Cassidy, second Baker; passed 5–0.

Adjourned: 6:31 p.m.

SECTION 2 – COMMUNITY CALENDAR & EVENTS

Dates Covered: August 11 – 16, 2025

FEATURED EVENT – DOWNTOWN FOSTORIA

Date	Event	Time	Location
Aug 15	Space Cats — Live Summer Concert	7:00–9:00 p.m.	Alley between 113 & 115 S. Main Street, Downtown



SPACE CATS

FRIDAY, AUG 15TH
7-9PM

JOIN US FOR A **FREE** SUMMER CONCERT
FEATURING LOCAL ARTISTS, FOOD, &
COMMUNITY. BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS.

ALLEY BETWEEN 113 & 115 S. MAIN ST.
FOSTORIA, OH

FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
PRESENTED BY DOWNTOWN REEVENED





Save the Date – Coming Soon



Latino Fest – Puro Party

Date: Saturday, August 23, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Location: Downtown Fostoria – S. Main St., OH

Admission: *Free – Bring chairs*

Highlights:

- Beer Tent 🍺
 - Over 15 food & drink trucks 🌮
 - Bounce Houses & Kid Games 🎈
 - Chancla Toss 🥿
 - Live Performances by La Nueva Onda, Grupo Dezeo, Conjunto Champz, and Los Aztecas 🎵
-

Other Tri-County & Local Events

Seneca County

Date	Event	Time	Location
Aug 11	Tom Sawyer Days	4:00–5:00 p.m.	Tiffin University Nature Preserve
Aug 12	Preschool Pals – Creek Exploration	2:00–3:00 p.m.	Forrest Nature Preserve
Aug 13	Archery 101	4:00–5:00 p.m.	Steyer Nature Preserve
Aug 14	Discovery Series – Seashell Creations	4:00–5:00 p.m.	Clinton Nature Preserve

Wood County

Date	Event	Time	Location
Aug 11	Paddle the Pond	4:00–7:30 p.m.	W.W. Knight Nature Preserve

Aug 11	Chair Yoga in Parks	5:00–5:45 p.m.	W.W. Knight Nature Preserve (Lot)
Aug 11	Yoga in the Parks	6:00–7:00 p.m.	W.W. Knight Nature Preserve (Lobby)
Aug 12	Book Club (Sci-Fi)	5:00–6:00 p.m.	Carter Historic Farm – Farrowing House
Aug 14	Coffee with the Birds	8:30–10:00 a.m.	Otsego Park – Marlow River Overlook
Aug 14	Dragonfly Wander	10:00 a.m.–12 p.m.	W.W. Knight Nature Preserve – Green Room
Aug 14	Learning to Spin Wool	5:30–7:30 p.m.	Carter Historic Farm – Farrowing House

Hancock County

Date	Event	Time	Location
Aug 11	Winery Tour – Farm Bureau	5:00–8:00 p.m.	Gillig Winery, Findlay
Aug 15	NW Ohio Premier Farmer Event	9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Hancock County

SECTION 3 — LOCAL HISTORY & HERITAGE

Surveying the Wild Frontier: Ohio's Original Land Records Offer a Window to the Past

When the first land surveyors set foot in what would become Ohio, they encountered a landscape far different from the dense forest many envision today. According to notes from the original surveys, conducted between 1785 and the mid-1800s, much of Ohio was more open than expected, dotted with prairies, wetlands, and scattered woodlands.

The surveyors' job was twofold: map the land into parcels for sale and record detailed descriptions of the vegetation, terrain, and soil. These records guided settlers — many of whom purchased land sight unseen — in deciding where to build their futures.

Soil was classified into three categories: **poor**, **middling**, and **rich**, with some notes even suggesting what crops would grow best. Surveyors documented springs, salt

licks, wetlands, and other resources critical for survival. They sometimes waxed poetic about “beautiful waterfalls” or “splendid groves,” while at other times dismissing parcels as “worthless” or “unfit for cultivation.”

Despite occasional misidentifications of tree species, these survey notes remain the only complete vegetation survey of Ohio. Today, ecologists use them as a baseline to understand the state’s original ecosystems and to guide conservation efforts. Many of Ohio’s **147 state nature preserves** still showcase landscapes much as they appeared over 200 years ago — a living link to the state’s earliest days.

SECTION 4 — ARTS & CULTURE

Brother, I've Seen Some Astonishing Sights

By Kabir, translated by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra

Brother, I've Seen Some Astonishing Sights

A lion keeping watch over pasturing cows.

A mother delivered after her son was.

A guru prostrated before his disciple.

Fish spawning on treetops.

A cat carrying away a dog.

A gunny sack driving a bullock cart.

A buffalo going out to graze sitting on a horse.

A tree with its branches in the earth, its roots in the sky,

a tree with flowering roots.

This verse, says Kabir, is your key to the universe, if you can figure it out.

Kabir's words, delivered in paradox and painted in impossible imagery, are not mere curiosities. They are the art of disruption—the rearranging of reality so our vision cannot rest comfortably in what we think we know. Like the best works of visual and performing art, his “upside-down language” asks us to see the world from an unexpected angle.

In these surreal scenes—a guru bowing to a disciple, a buffalo riding a horse, trees blooming from their roots—Kabir offers what every artist seeks to capture: a vision so startling that it forces the mind to stop, stare, and wonder. This is not just poetry; it is a call to shift perspective, to turn the canvas of life around and look at it anew.

Art, like Kabir's verse, lives in the space between the possible and the impossible. It invites us to inhabit that space—not to solve its riddle too quickly, but to linger there, letting the strangeness become the seed of understanding.

SECTION 5 — TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

SoftBank's Lordstown Purchase Could Bring New High-Tech Opportunities for Ohio Workers

A major shift in Ohio's industrial future is unfolding about 145 miles from Fostoria, as global technology investor **SoftBank Group** acquires the former Foxconn electric vehicle plant in **Lordstown, Trumbull County**.

The facility—once a General Motors assembly plant—was most recently owned by Foxconn, which had aimed to turn it into a hub for electric vehicle manufacturing. Those ambitions slowed after several EV partners, including Lordstown Motors and Fisker, went bankrupt. Now, SoftBank plans to repurpose the site as part of its **Stargate AI infrastructure initiative**, a \$500 billion collaboration with OpenAI and Oracle.

From Cars to Computers

SoftBank's vision involves transforming the Lordstown facility into either a **manufacturing site for AI servers** or potentially a full-scale **data center**. The move

represents a broader trend of technology companies investing in American manufacturing sites to support AI's massive computing needs.

What This Means for Fostoria and the Tri-County Region

While Lordstown is a two-hour drive east of Fostoria, the economic ripple effects could reach our area. Large-scale AI infrastructure projects require **specialized trades, technical skills, and supply chain support**—all areas where northwest Ohio's workforce could play a role.

Local career and technical education programs—such as **Fostoria High School's career pathways**, the **Sentinel Career & Technology Center**, and programs at **Owens Community College**—could see expanded opportunities to train students in high-demand fields like:

- Data center operations

- High-capacity electrical systems
- Precision manufacturing for computing hardware
- Cybersecurity and AI system maintenance

Economic Impact

Lordstown's transformation into a tech hub could help Ohio diversify its economy beyond automotive and agriculture. It also signals to global investors that Ohio is **ready to host next-generation industries**—something local leaders in Fostoria and across the tri-county area have long championed.

Looking Ahead

SoftBank has not yet announced a construction timeline, but its quick move to secure the facility suggests plans will advance rapidly. For Fostoria and the surrounding

region, the message is clear: the future of work in Ohio may be just as much about **coding, servers, and AI** as it has been about steel, glass, and engines.

SECTION 6 — HEALTH, WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT

Ohio Vaccine Rates Decline: Experts Warn of Outbreak Risks

Ohio's vaccination rates for kindergarteners have fallen by nearly 5% over the past five years, dropping from about 90% in 2019–2020 to just over 85% in the 2024–2025 school year. At the same time, exemptions for religious or personal beliefs have risen from 2.6% to 4.5%.

In a recent episode of *Healthy Perspectives*, Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff spoke with **Dr. Robert Frank**, pediatrician and director of the Vaccine Research Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Both expressed concern about declining vaccine confidence — a trend mirrored nationwide.

Ohio law requires students to be immunized against diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, and chickenpox. Adolescents must also receive booster shots for Tdap and meningococcal vaccines. While these requirements have kept many preventable diseases at bay, lower vaccination rates can quickly lead to outbreaks.

“Whenever vaccine rates drop, we have outbreaks,” Dr. Frank warned. “It’s not if, it’s when.”

He emphasized that vaccines are rigorously tested for safety and effectiveness, undergo continuous monitoring through systems like VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System), and remain one of the most powerful tools in public health.

One vaccine not mandated for school entry but strongly recommended by both physicians is the **HPV vaccine**, which prevents several types of cancer. Despite its safety and high effectiveness, Ohio’s HPV vaccination rate for adolescents lags at around 60%, compared to over 85% for other teen vaccines.

Dr. Frank stressed the bottom line: “HPV vaccine prevents cancer — full stop. Every child should have that protection.”

SECTION 7 — STATE NEWS

Ohio’s \$60 Billion Budget Brings Tax Reform, Child Care Expansion, and Workforce Investments

With summer’s arrival, Ohio has finalized its biennial state operating budget — a massive **3,100-page, \$60.23 billion plan** shaping the state’s fiscal and economic direction through 2026. The budget impacts everything from taxes and housing to tourism and workforce training.

Tax Reform and Property Tax Debate

One of the most notable provisions is a planned **income tax reduction**, consolidating Ohio’s current three tax brackets into a **flat 2.75% rate by 2026**. Property tax reform measures aimed at easing burdens for residents and businesses were also passed by lawmakers, though some were vetoed by Governor Mike DeWine. The Ohio House

has already moved to override at least one of those vetoes, signaling more debate in the months ahead.

Expanding Child Care Access

The budget includes **\$200 million** to expand the Governor's Child Care Choice Voucher Program, making care more affordable for an estimated **20,000 additional children**. Two new initiatives — a **child care cost-sharing program** for employers and employees, and a **recruitment and mentorship grant program** to boost in-home providers — aim to especially help rural communities.

Tourism and Economic Development

Tourism Ohio receives a boost to market the state as “The Heart of It All,” while the budget supports construction of a **new Dome Stadium in Brook Park**, designed to attract year-round entertainment and major events. Key economic development incentives remain intact, including the **All Ohio Future Fund**, which has already allocated site development funding in Montgomery, Lorain, Coshocton, and Muskingum counties. Programs such as the **Brownfield Remediation Program**,

Transformational Mixed Use Development Program, State Historic Tax Credit, and **Opportunity Zone Tax Credit** also continue.

Addressing Housing Shortages

Recognizing housing as a workforce issue, the budget continues the **Ohio Housing Trust Fund** and **Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program**, while launching two new initiatives:

- **Residential Economic Development District Program** — encourages local zoning reforms to accelerate housing construction.
- **Residential Development Revolving Loan Program** — funds infrastructure for housing projects in rural areas.

Protections are also in place to shield approved housing developments from local referendums that could block construction.

Education and Workforce Development

Nearly **\$1 billion** in new funding goes to Ohio's public schools, including resources to introduce computer science courses in the nearly **40% of high schools** currently without them. Investments continue across career centers, community colleges, and universities, with the **Governor's Merit Scholarship Program** reauthorized — offering **\$5,000 annually for four years** to the top 5% of Ohio high school graduates.

SECTION 8 — ELEVATE

On Resilience & Struggle

- **Friedrich Nietzsche (Germany)** – *“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.”*
- **Helen Keller (United States)** – *“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”*

- **Seneca (Rome)** – *“We suffer more often in imagination than in reality.”*
- **Desmond Tutu (South Africa)** – *“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”*

SECTION 9 — CATHOLIC CORNER

Faith & Community — Bishop’s Corner Recap

Broadcast Date: August 7, 2025 | **Source:** Annunciation Radio / Diocese of Toledo

Gospel Reflection

This week, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas reflected on Luke 12:13–21, the parable of the rich man who stored up grain in larger barns only to lose his life that night.

“Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves, but are not rich in what matters to God.” — Luke 12:21

Bishop Thomas invited listeners to reflect:

“Be rich in what matters to God. Our own wealth doesn’t matter in the end. What are we storing up in our spiritual silos? Are they treasures in God’s eyes or only in ours?”

Upcoming Event — Vigil of the Assumption in Carey

On **August 14th at 9 p.m.**, join the candlelight rosary procession at Our Lady of Consolation Shrine in Carey. The Bishop noted:

“It’s such a beautiful way to honor Our Lady, to pray the rosary, attend Mass, and in honoring her, to honor her Son, Jesus.”

He also shared that similar Marian celebrations take place in countries like Austria, France, Italy, Spain, and Poland, sometimes as public holidays.

Keeping Faith Alive in Summer

Responding to a listener's question about avoiding a summer "spiritual lull," Bishop Thomas encouraged:

- **Pilgrimages** — local or national
- **Learning about the saints** — including soon-to-be canonized Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati
- **Acts of charity** — in parishes or community service
- **Spiritual reading** — to deepen faith during ordinary time

"The Christian life is a constant pilgrimage toward the Father." — Catechism
2816

Addressing a concern about reconciling border security with compassion, Bishop Thomas said:

“The Church teaches every country has the right to secure borders and appropriate immigration policy, and also the duty to care for those already here. There is no dichotomy.”

Home Chapels

A listener asked if they could use a monstrance in a home chapel.

“You cannot have a monstrance with a consecrated host at home, but it is encouraged to create a space for prayer and to visit parish Eucharistic adoration.”

On the Immaculate Conception

To a Protestant friend’s question about Mary being without sin, the Bishop explained:

“Mary was preserved from original sin through prevenient grace. The angel’s greeting ‘Hail, full of grace’ — kecharitomene — appears only once in Scripture, showing her unique role as Mother of God.”

Closing Prayer

The Bishop ended with the Sunday prayer:

“Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness. Restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”