



Issue: 10 - September 28, 2025 - October 5, 2025
Produced by Elliott Shaffer

SECTION 1 — COUNCIL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Council Recap — September 16, 2025

 6:00 – 6:52 PM | *Council Chambers*

Council convened with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. Roll call: Layman, Podach, Cassidy, Baker, Mendoza, Lake, and Grine present; President Brian Shaver excused. Minutes approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

- 💰 **August Financials:** \$22.5M total funds; \$16.7M unencumbered; \$11.2M in General Fund
- 📊 **Revenue:** On or above projections
- 🏦 **Banking RFP:** Six proposals, narrowing to two or three
- 📋 **Policy:** Draft fund carryover balance policy presented

- 📄 **Tax Budget:** Submitted for approval; suspension of three-reading rule requested
- 🗣️ **Public Input:**
 - Jill Filator — splash pad & Market Square
 - Deb Tyson — water rate concerns
- 📅 **Next Meeting:** Oct 21, 5:30 PM

Public Affairs Committee

Reviewed *Safe Routes to School* and *Southtown Street Grade Separation Project* (ODOT comments due Sept 26).

 17 Announced events:

- Oct 1 — Rosary Rally
- Oct 3 — Hops & Vines
- Oct 4 — Silent Movie Night
- 📅 **Next Meeting:** Oct 21, 5:15 PM

Law & Ordinance Committee

No new business.

Reports of Officers

Mayor Mennel — Thanked inclusive playground volunteers; requested PFAS ordinance action

Law Director — Announced launch of Public Records Portal
Finance Director — Requested adoption of tax budget and appropriation changes:

- +\$10,000 Police server upgrade

- +\$30,000 Foreclosure bond refunds
- +\$65,000 Sewer vehicle purchase

Public Comments

- Bob Gase — fairness for multi-unit billing
- Rebecca Cook — constitutional enforcement
- Jill Filator — airport lease, splash pad funding
- Deb Tyson — PFAS & gas aggregation
- Rebecca Kimmell — near accident at crosswalk, traffic safety concerns

Legislation

-  PFAS Legal Representation — *Adopted (Ord. 2025-64)*
-  OPWC/LTIP Grant — *Adopted (Res. 2025-65)*
-  Tax Rates & Levies — *Adopted (Res. 2025-66)*
-  Appropriation Amendments — *Adopted (Ord. 2025-67)*
-  CRA (National Electrical Carbon Products) — *Remained tabled*
-  Gas Aggregation & Rail Park Hours — *Second readings*
-  SRO Contract — *First reading*

 *Adjourned at 6:52 PM.*
Next Council: **Oct 7, 2025**

Green Team Days at City Park

In late August, city employees launched the first “**Green Team Days**”, where multiple departments worked together to refresh City Park. Crews repainted playground equipment, replaced swings and teeter-totter seats, power-washed the shelter house, and removed old rainbow bumpers. They also picked up litter, leaves, and sticks throughout the grounds.

Thanks to a donation from **Botimer Tree Service**, numerous dead trees were removed and dangerous branches trimmed, making the park safer and more welcoming.

New *cornhole boards* have also been installed — built from weather-resistant concrete and coated for smooth play. The boards are open to the public; just bring your own bags.

 *Next step:* Gravel beneath the playground will soon be replaced with rubber surfacing to improve safety for children.

Halloween Parade — Now Accepting Entries!

The City of Fostoria is excited to announce that entries are open for the **2025 Halloween Parade**, happening **Sunday, October 26 at 5:00 PM** on Main Street.

Businesses, community groups, and organizations are invited to join the fun — floats, costumes, and spooky spirit encouraged!

 **Entry Deadline:** Monday, October 20

 **Registration:** [Online Parade Entry Form](#)

 **Fee:** \$25 for businesses/organizations; *Free for nonprofits*

 **Payment:** Checks payable to *Vision 2020*, mailed to:
City of Fostoria, Attn: Madison Stearns
213 S. Main St., Fostoria, OH 44830

 *Additional lineup details will be sent prior to parade day.*

Grab and Go Summer Meals for Kids

 **Tuesday, September 30** |  12:00 – 12:30 PM

 *Fostoria Church of the Nazarene, 339 Sandusky St*
Free summer meals for children **preschool through 12th grade**.
Meals will be distributed starting at noon until they're gone.

 *More info: 419-435-6262*

Rosary Rally — America Needs Fatima

 **Wednesday, October 1** |  11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

 *Municipal Lawn, 213 S Main St*

Join local faithful for prayer, reflection, and unity as part of the *America Needs Fatima* Rosary Rally. All are welcome to attend and pray for peace, families, and community renewal.

Hops & Vines

 **Friday, October 3** |  2:00 – 10:00 PM

 *In the Axe, Downtown Fostoria*

Enjoy local brews, wines, food, and live entertainment in the heart of Main Street.

 *Note: Main Street will be closed from Tiffin St. to South St. during the event.*

Silent Movie Night — Fostoria Area Historical Society

 **Saturday, October 4** |  5:30 – 9:30 PM

 *Hope Lutheran Church, 151 W. Center St*

 *Feature: Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr.*

 *Live Piano Accompaniment: Lynne Long*

 *Dinner: Spaghetti served at 5:30 PM; movie begins 7:00 PM*

 *Tickets: \$18 advance / \$20 at door (Calico Charlie's)*

 *Online: fostoriamuseum.org*

 *Takeout Only: \$10*

A fun and historic night celebrating early cinema, dinner, and live music.

City Job Opening — Water Distribution Laborer

 *City of Fostoria* |  *Mon–Fri, 7:00 AM–3:30 PM*

The City of Fostoria is now accepting applications for a **Water Distribution Laborer**.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with maintenance and repair of water distribution systems
- Operate heavy machinery safely and efficiently
- Perform manual labor in various weather conditions
- Maintain records and follow instructions
- Communicate effectively with crew and public
- Teamwork, professionalism, and dependability

 *Apply: admin@fostoriaohio.gov*

 *Application: [City Employment Application \(Adobe Acrobat\)](#)*

 *Mail: City Hall, 213 S. Main St., Fostoria, OH 44830*

SECTION 2 – COMMUNITY CALENDAR & EVENTS

 *Fostoria & Tri-County Region (Seneca • Hancock • Wood Counties)*

Fostoria & Immediate Area (Seneca County)

Grab and Go Summer Meals for Kids

 **Tuesday, Sept 30** |  12:00 – 12:30 PM

 *Fostoria Church of the Nazarene, 339 Sandusky St*

 Free meals for children preschool through 12th grade. Meals distributed until gone.

 419-435-6262

Rosary Rally — *America Needs Fatima*

 **Wednesday, Oct 1** |  11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

 *Municipal Lawn, 213 S Main St*

 Community prayer gathering for peace, families, and faith renewal.

Hops & Vines

 **Friday, Oct 3** |  2:00 – 10:00 PM

 *In the Axe, Downtown Fostoria*

 Local brews, wines, food, and live music. Main Street closed from Tiffin to South.

Silent Movie Night — *Fostoria Area Historical Society*

 **Saturday, Oct 4** |  Dinner 5:30 PM, Movie 7:00 PM

 *Hope Lutheran Church, 151 W Center St, Fostoria*

 *Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr.* with live piano by Lynne Long.

 \$18 advance / \$20 door (Calico Charlie's) |  \$10 takeout only

 fostoriamuseum.org

Fostoria Farmers & Artisans' Market

 **Wednesdays through Oct 22** |  4:00 – 7:00 PM

 *Downtown Fostoria*

 Fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, and handmade items.

Fostoria Halloween Parade  

 **Sunday, Oct 26** |  5:00 PM

 *Main Street, Fostoria*

 Annual parade with floats, costumes, and community groups.

 Entry deadline: Oct 20 |  [Register Online](#)

 \$25 businesses | Free nonprofits

Fostoria Trick-or-Treat

 **Thursday, Oct 30** |  6:00 – 7:30 PM

 *Neighborhoods across Fostoria*

 Official city trick-or-treat night.

Tiffin / Seneca County

Downtown Tiffin Trick-or-Treat

 **Monday, Oct 20** |  4:00 – 6:00 PM

 *Downtown Tiffin Businesses*

 Merchants hand out treats to kids in costume.

Tiffin Halloween Parade (Schools)

 **Saturday, Oct 25** |  10:00 AM

 *Tiffin City Schools Route*

 Students and local groups parade through downtown.

Seneca County Halloween Parade

 **Saturday, Oct 25** |  10:00 AM

 *Downtown Tiffin — St. Joseph Catholic Church to Riverside Dr*

 Countywide parade with floats and bands.

Tiffin Citywide Trick-or-Treat

 **Thursday, Oct 30** |  6:00 – 7:30 PM

 *Neighborhoods throughout Tiffin*

 Official city trick-or-treat night.

Tiffin-Seneca Farmers Market

 **Saturdays: Sept 27; Oct 4, 11, 18, 25** |  9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 *Washington St. between Perry & Market, Downtown Tiffin*
 Local produce, baked goods, artisans, and music.

Findlay / Hancock County

Findlay Fall Harvest Festival

 **Sunday, Oct 5** |  12:00 – 4:00 PM
 *Litzenberg Memorial Woods, 6100 US 224, Findlay*
 Pioneer demos, hayrides, and crafts.

Oktoberfest Findlay

 **Saturday, Oct 11** |  2:00 – 10:30 PM
 *Downtown Findlay, 123 E Main Cross St*
 German food, breweries, kids' zone, and live music.

Hancock County Farmers Market

 **Thursdays through Oct 30** |  4:00 – 6:00 PM
 *Marathon Center Lot, 200 W Main Cross St, Findlay*
 Seasonal produce, baked goods, artisan crafts.

Findlay Cops & Kids Halloween Parade

 **Tuesday, Oct 21** |  7:00 PM
 *South Main Street, Findlay*
 Parade hosted by police and community groups.

Findlay Citywide Trick-or-Treat

 **Thursday, Oct 30** |  6:00 – 8:00 PM
 *Neighborhoods across Findlay*
 Official city trick-or-treat night.

NWORRP Halloween Train Trick-or-Treat

 **Saturdays, Oct 18 & 25** |  1:00 – 4:00 PM & 6:30 – 9:00 PM
 *NW Ohio Railroad Preservation, 12505 Co Rd 99, Findlay*
 Train rides with trick-or-treat stops.

Bowling Green / Wood County

Bowling Green Farmers' Market

 **Wednesdays through mid-Oct** |  4:00 – 7:00 PM
 *Downtown Bowling Green (Main St)*
 Local growers, handmade goods, live entertainment.

BG 4x4 Fest

 **Saturday, Oct 4** |  10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 *Wood County Fairgrounds, 13800 W Poe Rd*
 Off-road vehicle showcase and activities.

Heritage Farm Fest

 **Saturday, Oct 4** |  11:00 AM – 3:00 PM
 *Carter Historic Farm, 18331 Carter Rd*
 Historic demonstrations, crafts, and family fun.

SECTION 3 — LOCAL HISTORY & HERITAGE

Harvest on the Ohio Frontier: September Foods & Recipes of Early Settlers

Flavors of the 1700s–1800s on the Ohio Frontier

As September arrived on the Ohio frontier, it marked a time of abundance and preparation. Settlers and Native peoples alike looked to the land for their livelihood, gathering the fruits of summer and storing away supplies for the winter ahead. Kitchens and hearths filled with the scent of ripening apples, roasting squash, and simmering stews—simple foods born from hard work, ingenuity, and the rhythms of the earth.

The Frontier September Harvest

By late summer, **cornfields stood tall, apple orchards hung heavy with fruit**, and **pumpkins and beans** ripened in garden plots cleared from the forest. The “**Three Sisters**”—corn, beans, and squash—remained central to both Native and settler diets, often grown together using Indigenous planting wisdom that enriched the soil and sustained communities.

Frontier families also gathered **wild berries, hickory nuts, and herbs**, while **deer, rabbit, turkey, and fish** filled their smokehouses. The kitchen was both a place of necessity and creativity—where every crop, root, and scrap was put to use.

Kitchen Tools and Cooking Methods

Most Ohio frontier kitchens were equipped with **cast-iron pots, Dutch ovens**, and **long-handled spoons**, all centered around a **hearth fire**. Meals were slow-cooked, smoked, or baked beneath hot coals. Without modern ovens or refrigeration, pioneers relied on **drying, pickling, and fermenting** to extend their harvest.

“The hearth was the heart of the home,” one pioneer wrote. “What came from it kept both body and spirit warm.”

Common September Dishes

Below are several seasonal favorites that graced Ohio frontier tables in September:



1. Apple Butter over Open Fire

As apples ripened in the orchards, families gathered for apple butter “stir-offs.” Large copper kettles hung over wood fires, filled with sliced apples, cider, cinnamon, and cloves, stirred slowly for hours.

Ingredients (Frontier Style):

- 1 bushel tart apples, peeled and sliced
- 2 quarts apple cider
- 1 cup honey or molasses (if available)
- Cinnamon sticks, cloves, and nutmeg (optional but treasured)

Method: Simmer over open flame, stirring constantly with a wooden paddle until thick and deep brown. Stored in earthenware crocks sealed with beeswax, it sweetened winter bread and biscuits.

2. Corn Dodger Cakes (Frontier Cornbread)

Corn was the cornerstone grain on the frontier—easy to grow, grind, and bake. Corn dodgers were simple, sturdy cakes served with stews or sweetened with honey.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup hot water or milk
- 1 tbsp lard or butter
- 1 tsp salt
- (Optional) splash of molasses for sweetness

Method: Mix to a stiff dough, form patties, and bake on a greased skillet near the fire or in a Dutch oven. Crisp on the outside, soft within—a true pioneer staple.

3. Harvest Stew (Venison or Rabbit)

Frontierspeople made hearty stews from whatever the season provided—wild game, garden vegetables, and root crops.

Ingredients:

- 1–2 lbs venison or rabbit (cubed)
- 3–4 potatoes
- 2 carrots

- 1 onion
- 1 ear of corn (kernels cut off)
- Wild herbs or salt if on hand

Method: Brown meat in cast-iron pot, add vegetables and water, simmer for several hours until tender. Serve with corn dodgers or crusty hearth bread.

4. Root Cellar Chowder

Early settlers relied on what would store well into fall—turnips, onions, potatoes, and dried beans. This chowder-style dish used milk or broth when available.

Ingredients:

- 3 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 turnips
- 1 onion
- ½ cup dried beans (pre-soaked)
- Milk or broth to cover
- Pinch of salt, pepper if available

Method: Boil beans and roots together until soft, stir in milk, and thicken with mashed potatoes or cornmeal.

This was comfort food before the term existed—warming, simple, and sustaining.

5. Pumpkin Mush (Autumn Sweet Porridge)

Pumpkins were everywhere come September, and settlers used them in both savory and sweet ways. Pumpkin mush was a breakfast favorite.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups pumpkin puree (fresh roasted)
- 4 cups water or milk
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 2 tbsp honey or molasses
- Dash of cinnamon or nutmeg

Method: Combine ingredients in kettle, stir over low flame until thickened. Served warm with a drizzle of maple syrup or butter.

Shared Traditions, Shared Tables

Native and settler alike viewed food as **sacred connection**—to land, family, and Creator. Harvest gatherings often included storytelling, singing, and thanksgiving prayers. Meals were humble, but their meaning was rich.

The foodways of September reveal more than flavor—they reveal a philosophy: that nourishment comes from **cooperation with nature**,

not dominance over it. Today, these recipes remind us of a time when every bite carried gratitude and every meal was a labor of love.

Reflection

As autumn settles over Ohio, it's easy to imagine the scent of wood smoke, apples, and stew rising from a cabin hearth. In their resilience, simplicity, and gratitude, frontier cooks left us more than recipes—they left us lessons in **resourcefulness, reverence, and seasonal living**.

Sighted Source References

1. **Ohio Auditor of State.** *Along the Ohio Trail: A Short History of Ohio's Counties*. Columbus, OH. (Educational resource chronicling the development of Ohio counties, pioneer life, and early settlement practices.)
<https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/AlongOhioTrail.pdf>
2. **Americana Corner.** *Settling the Ohio Frontier*. (Historical overview of life in the Northwest Territory, highlighting early pioneers, farming, and foodways.)
<https://americanacorner.com/settling-the-ohio-frontier>
3. **Ohio History Central.** "Frontier Foodways." Ohio History Connection. (Primary reference on daily life and food culture in 18th–19th century Ohio settlements.)
<https://ohiohistorycentral.org>
4. **Midstory.** *Agriculture and Food in Early Ohio*. (Research and cultural essays on farming, harvests, and the influence of Native agricultural traditions.)

 <https://www.midstory.org>

5. **Historic Foodways Reenactment Society.** *Frontier Recipes and Pioneer Cooking (1800–1840)*. (Reconstructed recipes and accounts from settlers' journals and domestic manuals.) [Archived Source, 2024 Edition]
6. **The Settlement Cook Book** (Early 1800s Ohio Editions). Historical facsimile available via Ohio Memory Project and regional archives.
 <https://ohiomemory.org>
7. **Wikipedia Contributors.** "Ohio Country," "Northwest Territory," "Great Black Swamp." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. (Supplemental background on geography, settlement, and natural environment.)
 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Country

SECTION 4 — ARTS & CULTURE

Harvest of Creativity: Apple Heritage in Ohio Art

As autumn settles across the Ohio landscape, shades of crimson, gold, and amber ripple through the trees — and with them comes the state’s most timeless muse: the apple. In barns, orchards, and still-life studios, Ohio’s artists have long turned to this humble fruit as a symbol of abundance, craftsmanship, and community.

From 19th-century folk painters capturing the warmth of harvest tables to contemporary artists exploring nature through realism and impressionism, the apple has held a permanent place in Ohio’s visual storytelling. This September, as orchards fill with families and local festivals celebrate the season’s first pressings, Ohio’s artistic heritage reminds us that the beauty of the harvest has always been as much about **art as agriculture**.

Still Lives of the Heartland

In the early 1800s, Ohio painters drew inspiration from **orchard life** — transforming baskets of fruit, hand-hewn tables, and rustic pottery into **symbols of home, faith, and providence**. These artists bridged frontier life with fine art, recording not only what they saw, but what they valued: simplicity, gratitude, and growth.

Among the most notable was **Joseph Oriel Eaton (1829–1875)**, a Cincinnati realist whose detailed still lifes and portraits often included the quiet presence of apples and table settings. His contemporaries, influenced by European training yet grounded in Ohio’s landscapes, used fruit as a reflection of moral and spiritual nourishment.

Meanwhile, self-taught **folk painters** across **Zanesville, Marietta, and rural Seneca County** filled parlors and taverns with “**pantry still lifes**” — paintings of apples, peaches, and preserves rendered with folk charm. Today, their anonymous works survive in local collections and museums, serving as reminders of Ohio’s domestic artistry.

The Orchard in Landscape

Ohio’s great landscape painters also found poetry in the harvest. **Robert S. Duncanson (1821–1872)** — of Cincinnati’s famed art scene — often nestled orchards, rainbows, and cultivated fields into his compositions, blending **Hudson River School grandeur** with **Midwestern sensibility**. His piece *Still Life with Fruit and Nuts* (c. 1850), now housed at the **Taft Museum of Art**, shines with vibrant apples and grapes — a celebration of nature’s generosity.

In northern Ohio, **Charles Courtney Curran (1861–1942)** portrayed young women gathering flowers and fruit under golden skies, merging **American Impressionism** with the rhythms of country life. His sunlit portrayals echo the harvest’s joy — and can be seen at the **Cleveland Museum of Art**, where Ohio’s artistic seasons unfold on canvas.

Where to See Harvest Art in Ohio Today

You can still walk through galleries where the **apple harvest endures in paint**:

Venue	Location	What to See
Taft Museum of Art	Cincinnati	Duncanson's <i>Still Life with Fruit and Nuts</i>
Cincinnati Art Museum	Cincinnati	19th-century Ohio domestic still lifes by Eaton and peers
Cleveland Museum of Art	Cleveland	Curran's Impressionist rural scenes
Zanesville Museum of Art	Zanesville	Ohio Folk Art featuring harvest still lifes
Decorative Arts Center of Ohio	Lancaster	Seasonal exhibits exploring agrarian arts
Toledo Museum of Art	Toledo	Rotating collections highlighting agrarian imagery

Tiffin Art Guild Tiffin Local exhibitions inspired by harvest color and craft

A Living Tradition

Today, Ohio artists still turn to apples as muses — capturing orchard landscapes in watercolor, staging still-life photography in autumn light, and teaching children to paint their first round fruits in art classrooms and community studios. From **Findlay's Awakening Minds Art Program** to **Tiffin Art Guild's fall exhibits**, apple imagery continues to connect creativity with everyday life.

Each brushstroke — past and present — honors not just the fruit itself, but the **spirit of the harvest**: the patience of the farmer, the curiosity of the artist, and the gratitude of the community.

So as baskets fill and presses churn, Ohio's apple season invites us to see — and to celebrate — the simple beauty that inspired generations of painters before us.

✨ *A harvest is never just a crop — it's a canvas of memory, color, and care.*

SECTION 5 — TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE & INNOVATION

Ohio's Role in the Microchip Revolution Expands — September 29, 2025

As September closes, Ohio is solidifying its place at the center of America's semiconductor resurgence. Federal legislation, new partnerships, and continued private investment are converging to position the Buckeye State as a cornerstone in the nation's strategy to rebuild microchip capacity and secure the digital economy.

Intel's Ohio One Fab Gains Momentum

The Intel semiconductor campus in Licking County continues to move forward with construction advances, strengthened by new agreements connected to the \$5 billion Intel + Nvidia collaboration announced earlier this month. This partnership integrates Ohio into the backbone of AI chip production as the United States works to ramp up domestic capacity under the CHIPS Act.

Strong Support from State Leadership

Governor Mike DeWine's administration continues expanding incentives for technology companies, including:

- Tax credits and utility support for manufacturers locating in Ohio.
- New STEM education investments, with \$7.1 million announced in September to boost student training for semiconductor careers.
- Cybersecurity requirements for local governments, safeguarding digital infrastructure as more systems are modernized.

Growing Ecosystem in the "Silicon Heartland"

Ohio's central geography and connected infrastructure mean chips built in Ohio can supply national markets efficiently. Investments in electric vehicle production by Honda and General Motors drive additional demand for high-quality semiconductors. Research powerhouses like Ohio State University and Case Western Reserve are aligned with industry partners, ensuring Ohio's innovation pipeline remains strong.

Building the Workforce of Tomorrow

As of late September, Ohio's universities and community colleges are expanding quick-start programs in microelectronics, supported by workforce hubs like OhioMeansJobs. Apprenticeship programs linked to Intel and other manufacturers are now in their first full year, positioning Ohio students and workers as some of the country's first trained for cutting-edge fabrication roles.

National Security & Strategic Importance

Rising global tensions and continuing chip shortages highlight Ohio's role in protecting America's strategic supply chains. Officials in Washington have pointed to the Midwest semiconductor corridor, anchored by Ohio, as vital to national defense and private-sector innovation in AI, health, and manufacturing.

opportunities, stronger infrastructure, and a front-row seat to one of the most important technology shifts of the century.

What's Next

- Ohio AI Summit — November 19, 2025 in Columbus will bring together researchers and industry leaders to discuss how AI and microchips intersect.
- New training collaborations between Intel and Ohio State University are slated to launch this fall, building the next wave of chip engineers.
- Additional infrastructure investments are expected before the end of the year as companies linked to AI server production and advanced packaging seek Ohio locations.

In Summary

Ohio is not just participating in the microchip revolution—it's leading it. With billion-dollar investments, a rapidly scaling workforce, and state and federal backing, the "Silicon Heartland" vision is quickly becoming reality. For Ohio communities, from Columbus to Fostoria, this transformation means greater job

SECTION 6 — HEALTH, WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT

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- 🌿 **Seasonal Wellness: Planning Health for the Weeks Ahead**
- As September turns to October, Ohio settles into a gentler rhythm — warm afternoons, crisp mornings, and the first full hints of fall color. This is a time to align your health with the season's natural transition. The body thrives on balance; cooler air invites grounding foods like root vegetables, apples, and hearty grains, while the fading daylight reminds us to restore sleep and set steady routines.
- Use this week to plan ahead — build nutrient-rich meal plans with local produce, swap lightweight bedding for cozier layers, and refresh your daily rhythm with gentle exercise. The mix of sunny and cool days offers chances for mindful walks, while breezy evenings call for reflection and rest. Fall is a season of preparation — for wellness, for warmth, and for gratitude.
- A strong start to October means focusing on consistency: hydration, movement, and mental calm. Seasonal transitions can test energy and mood, but through steady nourishment, intentional rest, and a welcoming spirit, you can greet autumn feeling balanced and renewed.
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- 🌤️ **Fostoria Weekly Wellness Forecast (Sept 29 – Oct 5)**
- **Monday, Sept 29**
🌤️ *Mostly sunny, very warm.* High ~80°F / Low ~60°F
Tip: Gentle stretching or light yoga helps ease back-to-work stress.
Affirmation: "I begin this week with steady energy and mindful preparation."

- **Tuesday, Sept 30**
☁️ *Cloudy and breezy, chance of light rain.* High ~75°F / Low ~58°F
Tip: Stay hydrated and use warm teas to soothe sinuses.
Affirmation: "I flow with change, finding balance through calm and care."
- **Wednesday, Oct 1**
🌤️ *Partly sunny, cool morning.* High ~69°F / Low ~50°F
Tip: Take a short outdoor break and set intentions for the new month.
Affirmation: "A new month opens new possibilities. I move forward with hope."
- **Thursday, Oct 2**
🌧️ *Cloudy with scattered showers, breezy.* High ~67°F / Low ~49°F
Tip: Boost immunity with seasonal foods — apples, squash, and soups.
Affirmation: "I nourish body and spirit with the gifts of the season."
- **Friday, Oct 3**
🌤️ *Partly sunny, crisp air.* High ~66°F / Low ~48°F
Tip: Brisk walks restore energy and improve rest.
Affirmation: "I honor the rhythm of the earth and align with its cycles."
- **Saturday, Oct 4**
🌤️ *Mostly sunny and cool.* High ~65°F / Low ~47°F
Tip: Ideal day for apple picking or a fall market visit.
Affirmation: "Fresh air renews me. Gratitude fills my heart in simple joys."
- **Sunday, Oct 5**
🌤️ *Sunny, slightly warmer.* High ~67°F / Low ~49°F
Tip: Plan hearty meals for the week — soups, roasted vegetables, grains.
Affirmation: "I enter the new week nourished and prepared, grounded in gratitude."
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SECTION 7 — STATE NEWS

Ohio in Transition: Free Speech, Finance, and Fairness

Free Speech & Security After the Killing of Charlie Kirk

The political climate on Ohio campuses shifted after conservative activist **Charlie Kirk** was assassinated earlier this month during a Utah campus event. Vigils—including one at **Coffman Park in Dublin**—drew hundreds seeking unity and reflection on political violence.

Ohio student leaders now weigh **safety against openness**:

“Never once did I ever think I would need security...
Now—I don’t know.”

“I don’t handle conversations like I’m going to change
their mind. I want to know why they think that way.”

Senate Bill 1: Campus Free-Speech Law

Effective **June 27, 2025**, **SB 1** (sponsored by Sen. Jerry Cirino) requires public colleges to **promote free expression** and safeguard “intellectual diversity.”

“Senate Bill 1 is about free speech, regardless of what
position you’re taking.”

“Free speech is not absolute... it cannot incite
violence.”

Supporters call the law a **framework for civil debate**; critics warn it could chill faculty speech or deepen partisan divides as campuses navigate heightened security.

Farmers Under Pressure: Tariffs, Weather & Rising Costs

At the **Farm Science Review (Sept 16–18, London OH)**, growers described a season of **thin margins and weather whiplash**.

- **Input costs** have nearly **doubled** in five years (fuel, fertilizer, equipment).
- **Soybean prices** hover near **\$10/bu**, down from \$15–17 pre-trade-war.
- **Tariffs & stalled exports**: “China has not bought anything from U.S. farmers this year.”

Some farmers, like **Mark Meyer (Marysville)**, are shifting to **organic models**—building soil health, cutting fertilizer, and earning premium grain prices. Others call for renewed trade deals and relief programs to stabilize rural incomes.

“The best way to put foreign dollars into rural communities is through trade.”

Cleveland City Hall Data Clash

A **public-records dispute** erupted between **Mayor Justin Bibb’s administration** and **City Council President Blaine Griffin** after a council aide—using **authorized access**—downloaded thousands of **unredacted** files from the city’s database.

- The **administration** says sensitive personal data (SSNs, medical info) was exposed.

- **Griffin** called firing demands a “**strong-arm tactic**”, insisting the aide “did nothing wrong.”

A third-party review is underway; public-records policy reforms may follow.

Cuyahoga Council Walkout over Kirk Tribute

Three **Cuyahoga County Council** members **walked out** when **Council President Dale Miller** led a **moment of silence** for Charlie Kirk, citing partisan concerns. Miller urged unity:

“Let’s end all political violence.”

Cuyahoga Jail Death Ruled Homicide

The **Medical Examiner** ruled **Tasha Grant’s** May death a **homicide** related to restraint at **MetroHealth**, making her the **third jail-linked fatality** this year. A **special prosecutor** will review findings amid ongoing oversight of county-jail conditions.

\$105 Million Federal Grant to Expand Charter Schools

The **U.S. Department of Education** awarded **\$105 million over five years** to Ohio to **grow and replicate high-performing charter schools**, announced in **Columbus** this week. State officials say funds will target underserved urban areas and strengthen accountability.

Property Taxes & School Funding Pressures

Ohioans paid **\$16.7 billion** in property taxes last year—among the nation’s highest rates. A new report by **Howard Pflieger** and **Greg Browning** finds those dollars **backfill shrinking state aid**, dropping Ohio to **45th** in state share of K-12 funding.

Superintendent Voices

On *The State of Ohio* (Sept 26):

- **George Wood**, *Federal Hocking Local (Athens Co.)*:

“We raised those taxes... We saved that money for years... Legislators are bank robbers—that’s our bank.”

- **Daryl Kutilus**, *Cloverleaf Local (Medina Co.)*:

“We want to be part of the solution... drastic caps have dire consequences.”

- **Trent Bowers**, *Worthington City Schools (Franklin Co.)*:

“Cash carryover isn’t a rainy day fund—it’s how levy cycles work. Cutting it 40% forces repeated ballots and layoffs.”

Governor **DeWine’s Property-Tax Task Force** weighs fixes, from a “**circuit-breaker**” (tie tax to income) to a **larger homestead exemption**, both requiring new state funding.

Redistricting Clock Ticking

The **Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting** held its **first hearing** this week. Under Ohio's 2018 rules:

- **Sept 30** – General Assembly bipartisan-vote window closes.
- **Oct 31** – Backup Commission deadline.
- **Nov 30** – Final map deadline (simple-majority, 4-year map). Failure could send maps back to the **Ohio Supreme Court** before **Feb 4, 2026** filing. Civic advocates urge “maps that mirror the 54% R / 46% D vote split.”

Hall of Fame Resort Goes Private

Shareholders approved **taking Hall of Fame Resort & Entertainment Co. private**, advancing plans for the **Hall of Fame Village** mixed-use district in **Canton**. Regulatory steps remain before closing.

Cleveland to Host 2030 Special Olympics USA Games

The **Greater Cleveland Sports Commission** confirmed **Cleveland** will host the **2030 Special Olympics USA Games**, projecting thousands of athletes and a major economic boost to Northeast Ohio.

SECTION 7 TAKEAWAY

September 2025 underscores a **season of tension and transition**:

- **Campuses** balancing free expression with safety under SB 1.
- **Farmers** navigating costs, climate, and trade uncertainty.
- **Cities** debating transparency vs. data privacy.
- **Counties & Schools** grappling with justice and funding reform.
- **Lawmakers** racing redistricting and tax-relief deadlines.

For **Fostoria** and the **Tri-County region**, these issues shape **how students learn, farmers earn, and families vote**—the daily realities behind the headlines.

SECTION 8 — ELEVATE

Practical Knowledge — Autumn Harvest & Home (Late September – Early October)

As September closes and October begins, northwest Ohio shifts fully into harvest mode. Combines hum across Seneca, Hancock, and Wood County fields, and local farm markets brim with **late-season apples, hearty pumpkins, squash, and root vegetables**. Cooler nights and shorter days invite reflection — and preparation.

Practical Ways to Bring the Season Home:

- 🍎 **Apples:** Now is prime time to buy bushels for cider or sauce. Slow-cook apple slices with cinnamon and a touch of clove; freeze in portions for winter.
- 🥕 **Root Vegetables:** Roast carrots, parsnips, and potatoes with herbs; store in a cool cellar or refrigerator drawer.
- 🎃 **Pumpkin & Squash:** Bake or steam, puree the flesh, and freeze in quart bags for soups and breads.

Kitchen Corner Recipe: Autumn Harvest Soup

Warm your home with this simple tri-county recipe: sauté onions, garlic, and diced carrots; add roasted pumpkin, sweet corn, and broth. Season with thyme and a splash of cream. Serve with crusty bread — a bowl of local comfort as evenings cool.

October Heritage — Tracks, Towns & Traditions

On **October 2, 1871**, just one year after Fostoria's rail connection to the Lake Erie & Louisville line, local commerce surged with the addition of new sidings and grain elevators. Those rail-linked

harvests helped shape Fostoria's agricultural economy — connecting farms to faraway markets.

As October festivals return — from **Tiffin's Heritage Days** to **local harvest markets and fall craft fairs** — we celebrate not just food, but the enduring rhythm of community and commerce.

This week at the **Fostoria Historical Museum**, look for 19th-century **grain wagon photographs**, a tribute to how deeply the region's prosperity grew from the marriage of field and rail.

Science & Nature — The October Sky & Season Ahead

🌿 **Seasonal Shift:** The **Fall Equinox (Sept 22)** has passed, and Ohio now leans toward earlier sunsets and cooler nights. Average temperatures in early October hover near **68°F by day, mid-40s by night** — ideal for leaf transformation and migration.

🌕 **Next Full Moon — The Hunter's Moon (Oct 17):** Traditionally marking the post-harvest hunt, this moon rises earlier each evening — lighting fields after sunset and signaling nature's preparation for rest.

🦋 **Nature Note:** Monarch butterflies are finishing their journey south. Watch for **flocks of migrating geese, late-season crickets**, and **chipmunks storing acorns** — all signs of the season's shift.

🍁 **Tree Science:** Expect maples to deepen red by early October, oaks to bronze, and sumac to blaze crimson. Color intensity is highest when days are sunny and nights dip into the 40s — a chemical signal triggering **anthocyanin production**, Ohio's autumn artistry.

Timeless Wisdom — Global Voices of Autumn

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” — *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

October's harvest season connects Ohio to ancient rhythms celebrated worldwide:

- 🌕 **China:** Families share mooncakes in the lingering glow of the **Mid-Autumn Festival**, offering thanks for unity and abundance.
- 🕯️ **Judaism: Sukkot** concludes — a reminder to dwell in gratitude, recalling temporary shelters of faith and God's protection.
- 🌾 **India: Navaratri** and regional harvest festivals honor divine provision and the victory of light over darkness.

Across traditions, the message endures: each turning season is both work and worship — a chance to gather, give thanks, and trust the cycle of renewal.

🌱 Monthly Challenge — Small Steps for a Better Home

🍂 Eco-Challenge (Week of Sept 29 – Oct 6):

Start a **leaf compost pile** this week. As maples and oaks begin to shed, rake leaves into a corner or bin. Add a bit of soil and moisture. By spring, they'll break down into rich **leaf mold**, a natural soil enhancer used by gardeners since pioneer days.

🕯️ **Home Reset Tip:** With evenings lengthening, set aside one night this week for **screen-free quiet** — light a candle, read scripture, journal, or plan fall goals. Let your rhythm match creation's rest.

SECTION 9 — THE CATHOLIC CORNER

Meeting St. Teresa of Calcutta & Living a Faith of Action

From “The Bishop’s Corner” (Aired Sept. 25, 2025)

 Featuring Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, Diocese of Toledo
 Annunciation Radio | Holy Family Radio | Bishop’s Corner Podcast

As Northwest Ohio Catholics prepare for **Respect Life Month** and the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**, Bishop Daniel E. Thomas shared both a tender memory and a call to holiness. This week’s *Bishop’s Corner* featured a heartfelt exchange with a six-year-old listener about **St. Teresa of Calcutta**, updates on upcoming **diocesan celebrations**, and guidance on **living faith in daily life**.

A Saint’s Lesson in Simple Prayer

The moment that captured listeners’ hearts came from **Maria**, age six, of **St. Joseph Parish**, who asked:

“Dear Bishop Thomas, I am six years old. I learned about St. Teresa of Kolkata. What did Mother Teresa say when you met her?”

Bishop Thomas, who met Mother Teresa on multiple occasions, shared what he called one of the most meaningful moments of his ministry:

“Maria, I met Mother Teresa on several occasions. It’s hard to choose just one story... Each time, what struck me most was her incredible humility. She spoke softly, looked you right in the eyes, and made you feel that serving others was serving Jesus Himself.”

He recalled one encounter that became a lifelong lesson:

“I asked her to pray for a special intention of mine. She said, ‘Oh Father, I’ll be happy to pray. But here is how you are to pray.’”

Mother Teresa’s instruction was simple and profound:

“Take it to Mary and say, *Dear Mother Mary, be near me and help me now.*”

She emphasized the final word — “**now**” — as a reminder that prayer must be **immediate, trusting, and heartfelt**.

“She said, ‘You must say now — and be direct with Mother Mary, because Our Lady loves her children and loves us as she loved her Son, Jesus.’”

“Maria,” the bishop added, “since your name is Maria, I offer you that prayer for yourself — and for everyone listening.”

 **Lesson:** Holiness begins in the present moment. Like St. Teresa, we are called to offer simple, sincere prayers — trusting that God meets us where we are.

Try This Prayer

Each morning or before rest, pause and say aloud:
“*Dear Mother Mary, be near me and help me now.*”
Offer it for someone in need — a neighbor, a child, or your own heart.

Faith in Action — The Bishop’s Week Ahead

As October approaches, Bishop Thomas shared his public schedule — a blend of parish celebrations and statewide witness:

- **Sept. 27** — *175th Anniversary of St. Caspar Parish, Wauseon*

“They are older than the diocese. Isn’t that amazing?”
Celebrated with **Fr. Todd Dominique** and parishioners.

- **Sept. 28** — *125th Anniversary of St. Michael the Archangel, Toledo*

“We’re moving the feast attached to the church’s title... celebrating St. Michael the Archangel with their anniversary.”

- **Oct. 2** — *Ohio Respect Life Mass & March for Life, Columbus*

“It’s a statewide celebration of life... followed by the March for Life of Ohio.”

Diocesan Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

 **Tuesday, Oct. 7 | 7:00 PM | Rosary Cathedral**
 *Rosary Service followed by Mass*

“We’ll welcome His Eminence Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley... It’s an annual tradition, and we hope to pack the cathedral as we turn in prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary.”

Marriage Anniversary Mass

 **Sunday, Oct. 26 | 3:00 PM | Rosary Cathedral**

“If you’re celebrating, invite others and come rejoice in your years of holy marriage.”

Gospel Reflection — Luke 16:1–13

Reflecting on the **Parable of the Dishonest Steward**, Bishop Thomas called for faithfulness and integrity:

“The steward was painfully clever—clever as a snake, but we don’t know how innocent.”

“We can’t serve both God and Mammon. We must be clever in heavenly ways and good stewards of the faith we’ve received.”

He tied this to modern discipleship — managing God’s gifts wisely, serving others humbly, and remaining faithful in small matters.

Bishop’s Daily Intention

“Pray for holy disciples, holy families, and holy vocations for a holy Diocese of Toledo.”

Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

Feast Date: September 27, 2025 | **Lectionary:** 454

Saint Vincent de Paul (1581–1660), known as the “**Apostle of Charity**,” devoted his life to the poor and to forming priests grounded in pastoral charity. His witness inspired the **Congregation of the Mission** and the **Daughters of Charity**, whose work continues across the world.

“Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another.” — *St. Vincent de Paul*

His feast reminds the faithful that **mercy is love in motion** — to serve Christ hidden in the suffering, and to act where compassion calls.

 First Reading — Zechariah 2:5–9, 14–15a

“People will live in Jerusalem as though in open country... I will be for her an encircling wall of fire, says the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.”

 *Reflection:* God surrounds His people with protection and light. As Jerusalem is restored, so too are our hearts when we allow His presence to dwell within.

 Responsorial Psalm — Jeremiah 31:10–13

Response: “*The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.*”

 *Reflection:* The Good Shepherd gathers His scattered flock, turning sorrow to joy.

“I will console and gladden them after their sorrows.”

 Alleluia — 2 Timothy 1:10

“Our Savior Christ Jesus destroyed death and brought life to light through the Gospel.”

 *Reflection:* In Christ, death gives way to radiant hope — a light no darkness can overcome.

 Gospel — Luke 9:43b–45

“Pay attention to what I am telling you. The Son of Man is to be handed over to men.”

“They did not understand... and were afraid to ask Him about this saying.”

 *Reflection:* Even the disciples struggled to understand the Cross. Faith is not built on full understanding, but on trust — walking forward even when God’s plan is hidden. St. Vincent de Paul lived that trust by serving in silence and steadfast love.

 Living the Message

As the Church honors **St. Vincent de Paul** and recalls **St. Teresa of Calcutta**, both saints echo the same truth — *love must be lived, not spoken*.

Whether through charity, humility, or a whispered prayer to Mary, holiness begins **here and now**, in each small act of compassion.

 Closing Prayer

“O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred law upon love of you and neighbor, grant that by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.”

— *25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Collect Prayer*

Bishop Thomas' final reminder:

“October is Respect Life Month... Let us defend, love, and care for all human life — from conception to natural death.”