

# HOPE HAPPENINGS

JUNE 2026 EDITION

*Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities*



## LEVY INFORMATION *Coming Soon!*

The Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities will have a levy on the **November 2026** ballot.

Over the coming months, we will be sharing factual information to help community members learn more about the levy and what it means for the services and supports provided through HOPE Services.



### FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Stay connected for the latest updates, information, and important dates.



### WATCH FOR

Fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and other informational materials coming soon.



### STAY INFORMED. LEARN THE FACTS.

We encourage everyone to stay informed as we prepare for the November 2026 election.

The next Board Meeting will be held  
Wednesday, June 17th, 2026 at 4pm

HOPE Services Activity Center



The HOPE Services Office will be closed Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> for the Juneteenth Holiday. We will re-open June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00am

HOPE Services newsletter is fully DIGITAL!

Stay connected in just a few simple ways:

- Follow the link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/uTHCLmJ>
- View online anytime: [www.henrydd.org/resources/newsletters](http://www.henrydd.org/resources/newsletters)
- Follow us on Facebook: [HOPE Services - Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#)

## HELP VOICES OF HOPE WIN A \$500 COMMUNITY GRANT!

Voices of HOPE has been selected as a finalist for a Henry County Community Foundation Mini Grant, and we need your help!

Our project, "Voices of HOPE Calming Kits for Community," would provide sensory calming kits for individuals with developmental disabilities throughout Henry County. These kits include tools designed to reduce anxiety, support emotional regulation, and improve focus during stressful situations.

The kits would be made available through law enforcement, first responders, local businesses, community partners, and HOPE Services events—helping create a more inclusive and supportive community for everyone.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit the **"Henry County Community Foundation in Napoleon, Ohio"** Facebook page. Find the Voices of HOPE Calming Kits for Community grant post. Click LIKE on the original grant post. Only likes on the original grant post count toward the voting!

*Voting ends June 14, 2026.*

Every like helps us move closer to receiving \$500 to bring more calming kits to individuals and families in our community.

SUPPORT INCLUSION. SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE. SUPPORT VOICES OF HOPE.

**Scan the QR code or visit the Facebook post today and click LIKE!**

**SCAN ME**



**HOPE  
SERVICES  
FOUNDATION**

# SAVE THE DATE

**HOPE Services Foundation  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BBQ**

**Event Date: September 11th  
Tickets will go on sale August 3rd**

## Celebrating Our Graduating Seniors



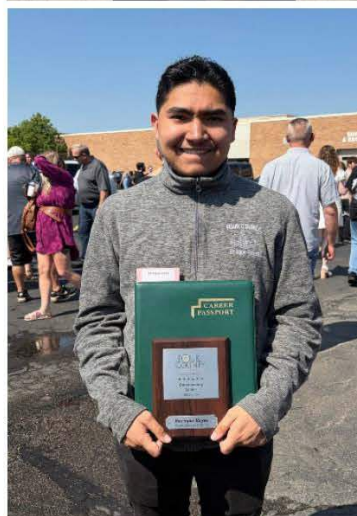
Graduating from high school is more than a ceremony or receiving a diploma - it marks the end of one chapter and the exciting beginning of another. It is one of life's first major milestones, a time when new opportunities, responsibilities, and possibilities begin to unfold.

Each graduate's path will look different. Some are preparing for college or vocational training, others are entering the workforce, and some may take time to explore what comes next. No matter the direction, every journey is unique and worth celebrating.

Today, we recognize the hard work, determination, growth, and perseverance that brought our graduating seniors to this moment. Along the way, they have overcome challenges, built friendships, gained new experiences, and created memories that will last a lifetime.

As they turn the page toward their next chapter, we encourage them to take pride in how far they have come and remain excited for all that lies ahead. The future is full of possibilities, and each graduate has the ability to create a path that reflects their goals, dreams, and strengths.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors! Move forward with confidence, courage, and heart — we believe in you and cannot wait to see all you accomplish.



# Let's get cooking



**Cook Night  
sponsored by  
HARC Inc.**



This month's Cook Night was filled with great food, fun, and friendship as participants worked together to prepare a delicious homemade meal. The menu included Million Dollar Spaghetti Alfredo, broccoli, homemade garlic bread, and marshmallow puffs for dessert.

Everyone had the opportunity to help with meal preparation, cooking, and cleanup while practicing important life skills such as teamwork, following directions, kitchen safety, and independence. The evening also provided a chance to socialize and enjoy time together around the table.

We were especially excited to welcome a new participant to Cook Night. It was wonderful to see everyone making new connections and helping each other throughout the evening.

Cook Night continues to be a favorite activity, giving participants the opportunity to build confidence in the kitchen while creating tasty meals and lasting memories.

If you are interested in joining the group sign up by contacting Randy Barnes at 419-591-6798 or Trace at 419-906-0759. Hope to see you next month!



**HARC REC Calendar July, August, September 2026**

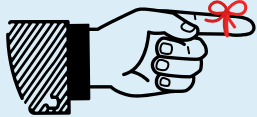
call/text Trace at: 419-906-0759

To sign up, Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event



Thursday, July 2nd, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. Iowa Game	5 pm - 10:30 pm	\$15	Fifth Third Field
Saturday, July 18th, 2026	Out to Eat & Movie	10 am - 4 pm	bring money (\$35)	TBA
Wednesday, July 22, 2026	BINGO	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
July 24-27, 2026	Camp Palmer	Leave Hope: 9 am	\$250	4 H Camp Palmer, Fayette
July 27, 2026	Return From Camp Palmer	2:00 PM		
Wednesday, July 29th, 2026	Cardio Drumming @Filling Home Gym	6-8 pm	\$15	Meet @ Filling Home Gym
Friday, July, 31st, 2026	Ohio State Fair	8 am - 8 pm	\$9 + money for food/fun	Ohio State Fair Grounds, Columbus
Friday August 7th, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. Omaha (post game fireworks)	5 pm - 11:00 pm?	\$15	Fifth Third Field
Saturday, August 15th, 2026	Out to Eat & Movie	10 am - 4 pm	bring money (\$35)	TBA
Monday, August 17th, 2026	Craft Night	6-8 pm	\$10	HOPE Activity Center
Wednesday, August 26, 2026	BINGO	6-8 pm	\$5	HOPE Activity Center
August	Ohio State Stadium Guided Tour	TBA	TBA	Ohio State Stadium, Columbus
Friday, September 4th, 2026	Toledo Mud Hens vs. Indianapolis (Star Wars Night)	5 pm - 10:30 pm	\$15	Fifth Third Field
Wednesday, September 9th, 2026	Fulton County Fair – Rodeo Night	5-10 pm	\$20 + Money for food	Fulton County Fairgrounds
Saturday September 12, 2026	Detroit Tigers vs. Rockies	10:30 am - 7:30 pm	\$37	Comerica Park, Detroit
Saturday September 19th, 2026	Out to Eat & Movie	10 am - 4 pm	bring money (\$35)	TBA
Friday September 11, 2026	Hollywood Casino! (21+)	5 - 10 pm	\$ (?) Bring your luck	Hollywood Casino, Toledo
September	Michigan Stadium Guided Tour	TBA	\$20	Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor

\*For all events that are "TBA" please refer to the "HARC, INC" or HOPE facebook page closer to the month of the event for dates, times, and prices!

**Reminder**

All HARC events can be found on <https://www.henrydd.org/events/category/harc/>  
The 3 month calendar of events will show the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month on the Events Page as well.

Or follow Rec and HOPE on Social Media!

HARC: <https://www.facebook.com/harchenrycounty>HOPE: <https://www.facebook.com/HOPEServicesHenryCountyBoardofDD>**HARC SUMMER CAMPS 2026**

Camp Palmer • Fayette, Ohio

**| Adult Camp****Dates:** July 24 – July 27**Who:** Adults Ages 12 & Up**Cost:** \$250 (4 Days/3 Nights)**Day Rate:** \$80 per day**Activities:**

- Swimming & Canoeing
- Nature Hikes & Animal Study
- Tall Tales & Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & S'mores

**| Kids Camp****Dates:** August 2 – August 5**Who:** Kids Ages 6 – 11**Cost:** \$250 (4 Days/3 Nights)**Scholarships:** Available**Activities:**

- Swimming & Canoeing
- Animal Studies
- Hiking & Fun Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfires & S'mores

**REGISTER NOW!**

Contact Trace: 419-906-0759

Henry County Abilities Resource Council (HARC, Inc.)

## Driver's Permit Achievement Through OOD Support

★CONGRATULATIONS★

We are excited to share that Skylar has successfully obtained his driver's permit with support and funding provided through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD)!

This is an important milestone that represents increased independence, confidence, and progress toward future employment and community involvement goals. Through OOD support, Skylar was able to access the resources and assistance needed to complete the permit process and continue building valuable life skills.

Learning to drive can open the door to greater opportunities, including employment, education, and participation in community activities. We are proud of the hard work and dedication shown throughout this achievement and look forward to seeing what comes next on this journey toward independence.

Congratulations to Skylar on this exciting accomplishment!



### HEALTH & COMMUNITY AWARENESS

## Dravet Syndrome Awareness Day is June 23

*Submitted by Stephanie Jones*

Previously known as severe myoclonic epilepsy of infancy (SMEI), Dravet syndrome is a rare and serious type of epilepsy. The first seizure typically occurs before a child turns 1 year old, often lasting longer than 5 minutes and accompanied by a high fever. Developmental delays, as well as trouble with speech, language, balance, or walking, may be affected.

### Symptoms and Causes

- Last more than 5 minutes
- Happen with a fever, illness, or high temperatures
- Cause uncontrollable shaking or jerking
- Affect only one or both sides of the body

### Progression After Age 1

- Balance and coordination difficulties
- Behavioral problems
- Developmental delays
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (ADHD)
- Problems sleeping
- Shakiness or an unsteady walk
- Slow growth or feeding problems
- Trouble controlling body functions



# Voices of HOPE

## JUNE SELF-ADVOCACY MEETING



**TUESDAY,  
JUNE 16, 2026**



**5:00 PM**



**SPENGLER'S**  
713 N Perry St.  
Napoleon, OH 43545

This month, Voices of **HOPE** will meet at **Spengler's** for our monthly self-advocacy meeting followed by dinner.



**Please bring money for your meal and a tip.**

**RSVP**

**BY JUNE 12TH**

**KERI BUNKE**

 [kbunke@henrydd.org](mailto:kbunke@henrydd.org)

 Text: 419-966-3239

 Call: 419-599-2892



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE AS WE  
SPEAK UP AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Voices of HOPE**



**SPEAK UP**

### What Is Voices of HOPE?

Voices of HOPE is our self-advocacy group made up of individuals who are passionate about speaking up for themselves and others. The group focuses on building confidence, developing leadership skills, and creating opportunities for members to make their voices heard in the community. Through meetings, activities, and special events, Voices of HOPE encourages independence, inclusion, and positive change for people of all abilities.



### Voices of HOPE: Summer Kick Off BBQ

Voices of HOPE members gathered on May 29 for a fun and engaging Summer Kickoff & BBQ. The evening provided an opportunity for self-advocates to connect, share ideas, and discuss important topics that impact their lives and community.

During the meeting, attendees participated in conversations about current and future Voices of HOPE projects, identified community needs, and discussed the importance of voting and civic engagement. These discussions encouraged members to share their thoughts and perspectives while working together to make a positive difference.

A special highlight of the evening was hearing from Chris Scarberry, Chris Buchhop, and Jessica Clapp, who each took time to introduce themselves and share a little about their lives. Their willingness to speak in front of the group helped build confidence in public speaking and demonstrated the supportive environment that Voices of HOPE strives to create.

Following the meeting, members enjoyed a delicious BBQ dinner and spent time playing games, laughing, and strengthening friendships. The Summer Kickoff was a great way to celebrate the beginning of the season while continuing to promote self-advocacy, leadership, and community involvement.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success. Voices of HOPE looks forward to another exciting summer of advocacy, learning, and fun!

Interested in Attending Voices of HOPE Meetings? Please reach out to Keri Bunke  
Call 419-599-2892 Text to 419-966-3239 or Email at [kbunke@henrydd.org](mailto:kbunke@henrydd.org)

## HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

May has been a busy and exciting month for Henry County Special Olympics, filled with competition, community support, and preparation as we head into the 2026 Special Olympics Ohio Summer Games.

Our athletes kicked off the month competing at the Northwest Ohio Regional Games in bocce, powerlifting, and track & field, where their hard work and dedication were on full display. From there, they have continued training and preparing as they set their sights on the upcoming 2026 Special Olympics Ohio Summer Games in Columbus on the campus of The Ohio State University.

We also kicked off another season of softball. A big thank you to the City of Napoleon for allowing us to utilize the local parks for practices and batting sessions. Having access to these facilities provides our athletes with the opportunity to learn and grow in the sport.



Thank you as well to everyone who supported our Hawk's Pizza & Drive-Thru Community Day on May 9. Because of your generosity, over \$450 was raised for our program. These funds will directly support our athletes as they prepare for Summer Games.

On May 15, we hosted our annual Law Enforcement Torch Run, and it was a tremendous success. Over 80 athletes, along with community members and supporters, participated in walking the Flame of Hope from Pocket Park in downtown Napoleon to HOPE Services.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all of the law enforcement agencies and local partners who helped make this event possible. Your planning, support, and commitment to safety allow our athletes to celebrate this special tradition each year.

We would also like to give a special thank you to the River City Rodders Car Club for bringing out cars for our athletes to enjoy during the Torch Run—your support added excitement and made the day even more memorable.



This month, we were also proud to host the Life Guide Friends Bowling Bash at River City Bowl-A-Way. Athletes from Henry, Wood, Erie, Ottawa, and Sandusky counties came together for a day of bowling, fun, and preparation for the upcoming Summer Games. It was a great opportunity for athletes to connect, compete, and build excitement for the weeks ahead.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the support of our community. Your encouragement and involvement make it possible for our athletes to continue to train, compete, and succeed.

Don't forget to join us for our Paws in Motion Community Walking Group, meeting weekly on Monday evenings from 7:00–8:00 PM at Oakwood Park. This is open to everyone—come walk, connect, and be part of our inclusive community!

## **July 17** Upcoming Events

- June 8: Summer Cheerleading begins — 5:00–6:30 PM @ HOPE Services**
- June 8: Paws in Motion Walking Group — 7:00–8:00 PM @ Oakwood Park (all welcome)**
- June 9: Flag Football Assessments — 7:00 PM @ Oakwood Park**
- June 10: Golf begins — 5:00 PM @ Napoleon Driving Range**
- July 9: Athlete Banquet — 6:00–8:00 PM @ Filling Home Community Center**
- July 16: Open Night Softball vs. Defiance County — 6:00 PM @ East Riverdowns Park**
- August 12: Cornhole season begins (sign-ups now open)**
- August 16: Henry County Fair Parade**
- August 29: HEAR OUR VOICE Music Festival — 4:00–10:00 PM @ The Barn at Honey Blossom**
- August 30: 3rd Annual Henry County Special Olympics Golf Scramble — Ironwood Golf Club (sign-ups open)**



# Henry County Special Olympics

## Paws In Motion

Community Walking Club

Weekly starting

Monday, June 8 - 7 pm

Oakwood Park

HENRY COUNTY  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS

# GOLF

- SCRAMBLE -

30  
AUG  
2026



2-6  
pm

GREAT GOLF, FUN GAMES & PRIZES

IRON WOOD GOLF CLUB,  
WAUSEON, OHIO



**REGISTER NOW**

Registration also available on Eventbrite.com

ZACH MEISTER 419-260-2176

RENITA KUEHNER 419-601-2372



## MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

When: Saturday, June 20

Time: 12 - 5 pm

Where: HOPE Services,  
135 E. Maumee Avenue

We will be holding a Mario Cosplay  
contest. Please dress up in your best  
Mario character costumes. Prizes  
will be awarded.



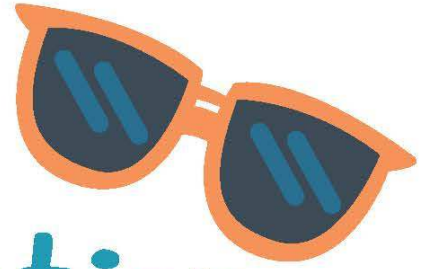
## FLAG FOOTBALL ASSESSMENTS

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>

6:30-8 PM

OAKWOOD PARK





# Early Intervention June Playgroup



Join us for some fun in the sun!  
Playgroup is open to all ages!

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2026  
9:30am to 11:00am  
at HOPE Services  
135 E. Maumee Ave  
Napoleon, OH 43545



# COORDINATED ENTRY IN- PERSON OUTREACH HENRY COUNTY

**HENRY  
COUNTY  
HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT**

1843 OAKWOOD AVE, NAPOLEON, OH 43545

3/25, 4/29, 5/27, 6/24,  
7/29, 8/26, 9/30,  
10/28, 11/18, 12/09  
**9AM-12PM**

**WHAT TO BRING:** ID, PROOF OF INCOME, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

**RESOURCES**

**ASSESSMENTS**

**HYGIENE BAGS**

FURTHER INFORMATION: JESSICA FARNHAM 419-990-5135

Special Olympics  
Unified Sports

# FOOTBALL CAMP

**JUNE 18**  
11:00AM - 12:30PM

**PERRY FIELD HOUSE**  
801 N MERCER RD.  
BOWLING GREEN, OH

WOOD COUNTY  
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCAN ME!



**HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
PRESENTS**

## Shine IN THE Show Ring

A LIVESTOCK SHOWMANSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR  
INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

**Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - 6 pm**

HENRY COUNTY EVENT CENTER  
HENRY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

MENTOR APPLICATIONS DUE JULY 1  
SHOWMAN APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE MAY 1  
MENTOR/SHOWMAN PAIRINGS ANNOUNCED JULY 9

FOR MORE DETAILS:  
HENRY COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
419-445-0723

BAILEY.ELCHINGER@GMAIL.COM  
STACY.ELCHINGER@GMAIL.COM

**abilities  
expo**

**FREE  
ADMISSION**



**Practical solutions.  
Hands-on experiences.**

- Discover disability products & new tech
- Scale the all-inclusive climbing wall
- Onsite navigation for blind/low vision
- Watch service dog demos
- Play adaptive sports
- Join in adaptive dance
- And so much more!

Style meets  
accessibility!  
**Runway of Dreams  
Fashion Show**

Meet  
YouTubers  
Squirmy  
& Grubs

**Chicago** | Renaissance  
June 12-14, 2026 | Schaumburg  
Convention Center  
1551 Thoreau Drive North • Schaumburg, IL 60173  
Fri 10am - 5pm • Sat 10am - 5pm • Sun 11am - 4pm  
Sun: 10-11am (Early Access Hour for sensory disabilities) • FREE Parking

Get **FREE**  
passes at



**abilities.com**

f @AbilitiesExpo X @AbilitiesExpo @AbilitiesExpo



### Important Email Update

We're transitioning our IT service provider and updating our email encryption process.

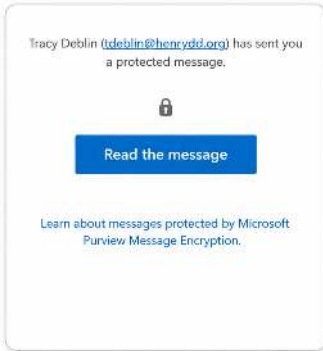
#### Notice to Individuals, Families, Providers & Community Members

For the next few weeks, all emails going outside of the agency will be encrypted. You will receive an email that looks like this:

**How to Access Your Message:**  
• Click "Read the message"  
• Sign in with a 1-time passcode

**You will receive another email with your passcode.**  
Enter the passcode to view your secure message.

**Stay Logged In (Optional):**  
You will have the option to stay logged in for up to 12 hours so you don't have to repeat this process for every email.



Thank you for your patience and support as we work to improve the security of our communications.



# Voices of HOPE Thank You!

## TO ALL WHO CAME OUT TO THE BRATS BASH!

### THE DAY RAISED OVER \$1,400!

FOR THE VOICES OF HOPE COMMUNITY FUND THAT WILL GO TOWARDS CALMING KITS



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE HENRY COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS FOR THEIR DONATION OF THE BRATS!

# Thank You!

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Janet Vary who donated crocheted lap blankets. Your kindness, creativity, and generosity are truly appreciated.

These handmade blankets provide more than warmth and comfort - they are a reminder that our community cares. Each stitch represents time, effort, and compassion, and the individuals who receive them are always touched by the love behind such thoughtful gifts.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and for sharing your talents to brighten someone's day. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of others through your generosity.



### Contact Us

HOPE Services Office	419-599-2892
Special Olympics	419-260-2176
HARC Recreation	419-906-0759

### Our Mission

HOPE Services is committed to creatively working in partnership with eligible individuals and their families to discover, pursue and achieve what is important to them.

Scan Code to sign up for the newsletter!



Find Event Calendars on our website.  
[www.henrydd.org/events](http://www.henrydd.org/events)