

HOPE HAPPENINGS

JULY 2026 EDITION

Seeing Potential - Inspiring Opportunities

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY!

July brings one of our nation's most celebrated holidays—Independence Day! The Fourth of July is a time to remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans.

Many people celebrate the holiday by gathering with family and friends, attending parades, enjoying picnics and cookouts, and watching fireworks displays. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with loved ones and participate in community events.

As we celebrate, it is important to stay safe. If attending fireworks displays, watch from a safe distance and follow all local safety guidelines. Remember to stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and take breaks from the heat when participating in outdoor activities.

This Fourth of July, let's take time to appreciate our community, reflect on the values of freedom and independence, and enjoy the traditions that bring us together. We wish everyone a safe, fun, and memorable Independence Day!

Happy Fourth of July!



In 2026, our nation proudly celebrates a remarkable milestone—America's 250th birthday! Also known as the Semiquincentennial, this historic anniversary marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

This celebration is an opportunity to reflect on our country's history, honor the sacrifices and achievements of those who came before us, and look forward with hope to the future. Communities across the nation are commemorating this special occasion through events, educational programs, service projects, and patriotic celebrations that highlight the values of freedom, opportunity, and unity.

As we celebrate 250 years of America's story, let's take time to appreciate the diverse people, communities, and contributions that continue to shape our nation. Together, we honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future for generations to come.

The next Board Meeting will be held
Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 at 4pm
HOPE Services Activity Center

WE ARE
CLOSED

The HOPE Services Office will
be closed Friday, July 3rd for
the Independence Day Holiday.
We will re-open July 6th
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
- Follow us on Facebook: [HOPE Services – Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities](#)

EARLY INTERVENTION SUMMER Cookout

★ PLAYGROUP ★

Join Us for Food, Fun, and Friends!

Bring your family and enjoy a summer evening with other Early Intervention families!



**TUESDAY,
JULY 14, 2026**



**5:30 PM –
7:00 PM**



**HOPE Service at 135 E Maumee Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545**

WHAT'S INCLUDED?



HOT DOGS



CHIPS



**OUTDOOR PLAY
& ACTIVITIES**



FAMILY FUN

RSVP REQUIRED

Please RSVP to your
Service Coordinator (SC)
or
Primary Service Provider (PSP)
by:

JULY 9, 2026

We look forward to
celebrating summer together!



Voices of
HOPE
SPEAK UP

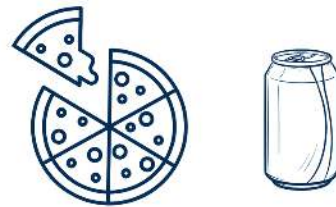
July 16th MEETING
Time 5-6:30PM

HOPE Services Activity Center
 135 E Maumee Ave, Napoleon



SPECIAL GUEST:
Amy Watson, WesBanco
 HOPE Services Foundation President

RSVP To Keri Bunke
 by July 13th



PIZZA & POP

Please bring

\$3.00

For Dinner



Phone: 419-599-2892



Text: 419-966-3239



Email: kbunke@henrydd.org



Ages 16+

(Please include any food allergies)

Fair Parade Shirt Order Form

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____



PAYMENT METHOD:

- CASH CHECKS MADE OUT TO HOPE FOUNDATION



Orders Due By July 17th

| Color Heather Choice: Red, Blue or Gray | Size Toddler, Youth or Adult | Quantity | Cost |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|------|
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Toddler

Short Sleeve T-Shirt (2T-6T)
\$8.00

Youth

Short Sleeve T-Shirt (S-XL)
\$8.00

Adult

Short Sleeve T-Shirt:
 (S-XL) **\$10.00**
 (2XL & Up) **\$15.00**



You can also get this in a sticker!
Order now! \$2.00 each
Size: Est. 2x4 inches

| Quantity | Cost |
|----------|------|
| | |

Pick Up: Everyone will be called or emailed when shirts are available for pick up.
 Any proceeds go to Voices of HOPE Self-Advocacy Group

TOTAL DUE

For questions on your order, contact Keri Bunke, kbunke@henrydd.org or call 419-599-2892

HARC REC Calendar

August, September 2026



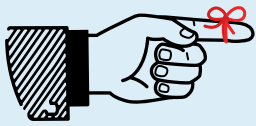
call/text Trace at: 419-906-0759

To sign up, Pay ONE WEEK prior to the event

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 1st 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>



**Community Support Spotlight:
Napoleon Elks Lodge #929**



The Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities (HOPE Services) is grateful to recognize the generosity of the Napoleon Elks Lodge #929, which recently presented an \$8,000 donation to support local individuals and families served by our programs.

This impactful gift was made possible through the Ohio Elks Cerebral Palsy Fund, an initiative dedicated to supporting organizations that serve children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities across Ohio. Their continued commitment helps strengthen services, expand opportunities, and enrich lives throughout our communities.

The Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities (HOPE Services) is grateful to recognize the generosity of the Napoleon Elks Lodge #929, which recently presented an \$8,000 donation to support local individuals and families served by our programs.

This impactful gift was made possible through the Ohio Elks Cerebral Palsy Fund, an initiative dedicated to supporting organizations that serve children with cerebral palsy and other developmental disabilities across Ohio. Their continued commitment helps strengthen services, expand opportunities, and enrich lives throughout our communities.

KELLY'S COLUMN

JULY 2026



From First Steps to Full Potential: The Power of HOPE in Our Community

by Kelly Rieke

Superintendent

Imagine a young child taking their first independent steps toward a world of possibilities. Picture an adult discovering a job they love and a community that truly sees their gifts. These aren't distant dreams, they're happening right here in Henry County, every single day, thanks to the dedication and of families, supporters, and the entire HOPE Services Team.

I am continually inspired by the resilience, creativity and the joy I witness in the individuals and families we serve. Our mission is simple yet profound: to creatively work in partnership with eligible individuals and their families to discover, pursue, and achieve what is important to them.

Some highlights this year include:

- **Expanded Early Intervention Services:** Our team has supported even more infants and toddlers, giving families tools and confidence from the very beginning. The progress we've seen in communication, mobility and social skills is nothing short of remarkable.
- **Employment and Community Inclusion Successes:** Individuals are thriving in meaningful jobs and community activities. Like Matt who landed a job at Walmart in Defiance, reminds us that when we focus on abilities, barriers fall away.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** Collaborations with local schools, employers, and organizations have opened new doors. Our 2025 Annual Report details the impact, more people connected, more dreams realized.
- **Community Support:** Your support makes these life-changing services possible. Your support helps us provide in-home supports, adult services, family resources, and advocacy that keep our community inclusive and strong.

The real power lies in the HOPE we see in the eyes of those we serve, the spark of possibility when someone realizes they belong, they contribute, and they achieve more than they once thought possible.



Mission Statement

"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."

2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT - SUPPORTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 507 | 257 | 250 | 143 | 63 |
| Total Individuals Supported | Adults Supported | Children & Youth Supported | Special Olympics Athletes | Community Employed |

Q: What is the primary role of HOPE Services?

A: HOPE Services is a community partner that makes sure people with developmental disabilities get the support they need at every stage of life. We don't just connect families to services, we help coordinate, guide and make sure individuals have support and funding to build their independence to live, work and thrive in Henry County.

Q: What are the terms and millage rates of the levy?

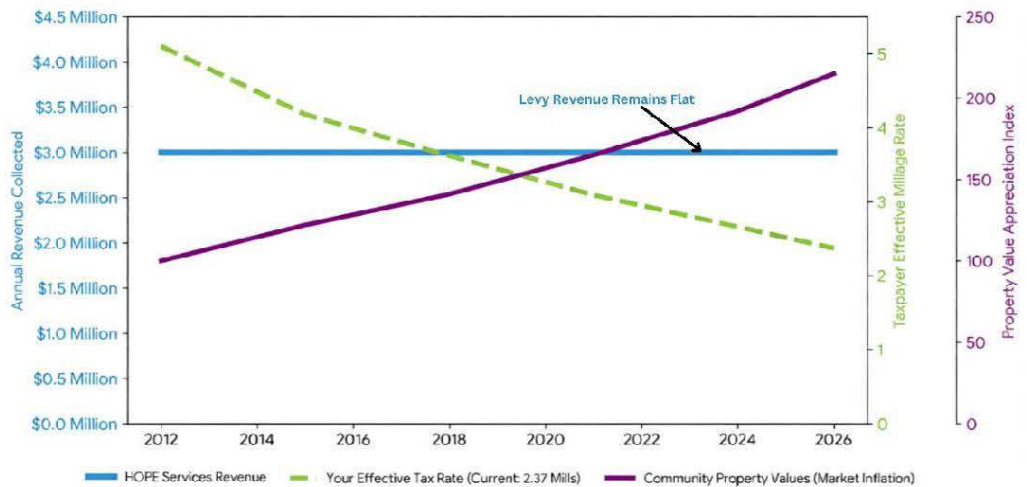
A: 2.5 mills levy for five years, which is estimated to generate \$2.95 million per year. It stands as the primary funding vehicle ensuring stable long-term local operations and would first be collected in 2027.

Q: What does the levy cost an individual local taxpayer?

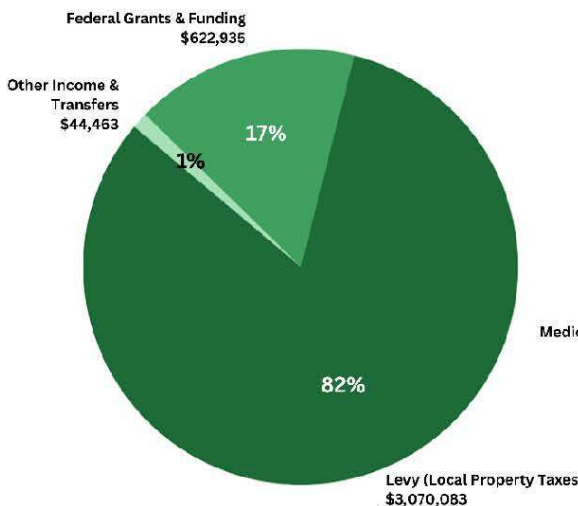
A: For a home valued at \$100,000, the levy costs approximately \$88 a year (or just \$7.33 per month). Actual tax rates vary based on individual property valuations.

Q: Why is a levy needed?

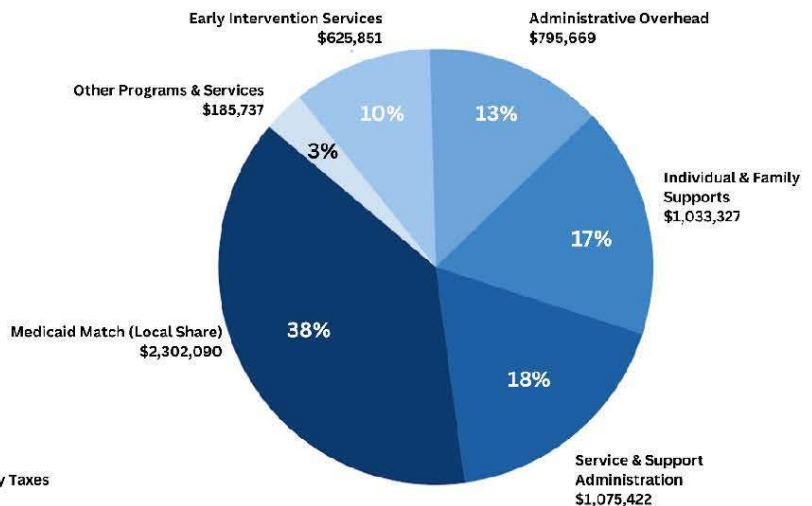
A: A levy is needed because the cost of services continues to increase, while our current revenue is no longer keeping pace. Our existing levies are from 1982, 2000 and 2006 so they are still collected based on property values from those years. Updated levy funding would help ensure that individuals and families in our community can continue to access the support, resources and opportunities they depend on each day.



2025 Operating Revenue (Total: \$3,737,482.04)



2025 Operating Expenses (Total: \$6,018,096.75)



Volunteer Opportunity:

Serve Up Smiles at the Henry County Fair Milkshake Stand

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to give back this summer? Youth and adults are invited to volunteer at the Milkshake Stand during the Henry County Fair!

This is a great opportunity to get involved in the community, earn volunteer hours, and help serve one of the fair's most popular treats. Whether you're taking orders, blending milkshakes, or greeting customers with a smile, your enthusiasm will help make the fair a memorable experience for everyone.

Volunteer Details:

Date: Thursday, August 13, 2026

Location: Henry County Fairgrounds – Milkshake Stand

Who Can Volunteer: Youth and adults

Shifts Available: From 11:00am to 5:00pm

No experience needed – training provided on-site

Volunteer Benefit: Admission to the fair will be provided for all volunteers on the day of their shift.

Volunteering at the fair is a wonderful way to build teamwork and customer service skills, meet new people, and be part of a favorite community tradition. Best of all, it's a fun way to spend the day while making a positive impact.

How to Sign Up:

To reserve your shift, contact Mel Dachenhaus or Melinda Camp at 419-599-2892 by July 31, 2026.

Join us and help make this year's fair unforgettable, one milkshake at a time!



Welcome
TO THE TEAM



Bailey Biddix

Bailey is a Developmental Specialist in Early Intervention. She lives in Archbold with her husband Koby and their three children Grayson, Delanie and Sophia.
Welcome Bailey!

≡ Welcome ≡

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Bailey Biddix, who has joined HOPE Services – Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities as a Developmental Specialist in Early Intervention!

Bailey will be working alongside families and young children to support developmental growth, build skills, and help create strong foundations during some of the most important early years of life. Her role is a vital part of our Early Intervention team, where connection, guidance, and collaboration make a lasting impact.

We're excited to have Bailey on board and look forward to the care, energy, and support she brings to the families we serve.

Welcome to the team, Bailey!

Let's get
COOKing



**Cook Night
sponsored by
HARC Inc.**



Cook Night Success!



Participants enjoyed another fun and delicious Cook Night as they worked together to prepare a hearty homemade meal. The menu featured crispy oven-fried chicken, garlic parmesan roasted potatoes, steamed carrots, fresh rolls, and a chocolate peanut butter ice cream bar for dessert.



Throughout the evening, participants practiced important cooking and kitchen safety skills while learning how to follow recipes, prepare ingredients, and work as a team. From seasoning the chicken to roasting the potatoes and preparing the vegetables, everyone had a chance to contribute to the meal.



The evening concluded with participants enjoying the meal they had prepared together and celebrating their hard work with a sweet chocolate peanut butter ice cream bar. Cook Night continues to provide a great opportunity to build independence, confidence, and valuable life skills in a fun and supportive environment.



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!





2026 Conference Information

Interested in Attending Synergy 2026?

Synergy is Ohio's premier leadership and advocacy conference for people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers, and professionals. The conference offers opportunities to learn new skills, connect with others from across the state, and grow as a self-advocate and leader.

Funding Options

If you are interested in attending Synergy 2026, please discuss the opportunity with your SSA as soon as possible.

Possible funding sources may include:

- Self Waiver
- Level One Waiver
- Synergy Conference Stipends (limited availability)
- Other community or grant funding opportunities that may become available

Please note that Individual Options (IO) Waiver funds cannot be used for conference registration.

Eligibility requirements and approval processes can vary for each funding source. Your SSA can help determine whether attendance is appropriate and whether waiver funding may be available.

Synergy offers a limited number of \$125 stipends to help offset conference registration costs for:

- Individuals with disabilities
- Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
- Family members providing support

Stipends are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants and may only be applied toward conference registration fees.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDuRBi_ffAQr4D0Z6d2wADodqJtNqNXMTv26ivtk_B7-j6xg/viewform

Registration Costs

Current conference registration fees are:

- Full Conference: \$375
- One-Day Registration: \$250

Hotel accommodations are not included in the registration fee.

Additional Funding Requests

If waiver funding and available stipends do not fully cover the cost of attendance, individuals are encouraged to discuss additional funding needs with their SSA. There may be opportunities for assistance depending on available resources and individual circumstances.

Next Steps

If you are interested in attending Synergy 2026:

1. Contact your SSA.
2. Discuss waiver eligibility and funding options.
3. Explore Synergy stipend opportunities.
4. Register before the conference deadline if funding is secured.

We encourage everyone interested in self-advocacy, leadership development, and meeting others from across Ohio to consider attending this valuable event.

For questions regarding funding options, please contact your SSA.



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 Focuses on Accessibility in the Community

The Voices of HOPE self-advocacy group took their June meeting into the community for a hands-on learning experience centered around accessibility and inclusion.

During the meeting, members visited a local community location and completed an accessibility checklist, evaluating features that help ensure individuals of all abilities can fully participate in community life. The group observed accessibility features such as entrances, parking areas, signage, and other accommodations, while discussing what was working well and identifying opportunities for improvement. This interactive activity encouraged members to think critically about accessibility and empowered them to become stronger advocates for inclusion. Through meaningful discussion and observation, participants gained a greater understanding of how small changes can make a big impact on creating welcoming and accessible environments for everyone.

Voices of HOPE continues to provide opportunities for individuals to develop leadership skills, build self-advocacy knowledge, and make a positive difference in their community. We are proud of our members for their thoughtful participation and commitment to helping create a more accessible and inclusive Henry County.

Together, we are learning, leading, and using our voices to inspire positive change.

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

HENRY COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER GAMES SUCCESS!

We spent May 29–31 on the campus of The Ohio State University competing at the 2026 Special Olympics Ohio Summer State Games. Our Henry County Special Olympics athletes had an unforgettable weekend—and it would not have been possible without YOU!

Because of your encouragement, donations, cheers, and belief in our athletes, they brought home:

- 🏆 19 Gold
- 🥈 8 Silver
- 🥉 12 Bronze
- 🏅 16 Fourth-place
- 🏅 3 Fifth-place
- 🏅 7 Sixth-place
- 🏅 5 Seventh-place

Every medal, every finish, every smile—you were part of it.

Henry County, thank you for helping our athletes chase their dreams and shine on one of the biggest stages of their season. Your support truly makes a difference.



☀️ Summer Programming in Full Swing

The month of June has been filled with energy, growth, and preparation as athletes jumped into summer sports practices. Participants are getting into the rhythm of softball, golf, flag football, and continuing strong with powerlifting. It has been great to see everyone building skills, confidence, and teamwork.

🕒 Softball Season Underway

Softball is now in full swing! A sincere thank you to the City of Napoleon for allowing us to use the fields and batting cages—this support makes a huge difference.

👥 Traditional Team (Green Team):

Krysta Delgado, Anthony Delgado, Zach Parcher, Job Knepper, Lydia Knepper, Aaron Delgado, Juan Delgado, Domenik Salinardo, Warren Ames, Josh Babcock, Vinnie Simon, Tyler Silveous, Tracy Rose, Jacob Heath, Lydia Kuehner, Steve Queen

👥 Skills Team (Black Team):

Aryon Nolan, James Guinn, Cody Steen, Dalton Kidd, Sam Dorrington, Robby Bauer, Joey Kuehner, Collin Johnson, Logan Parker, Ashley Curtis

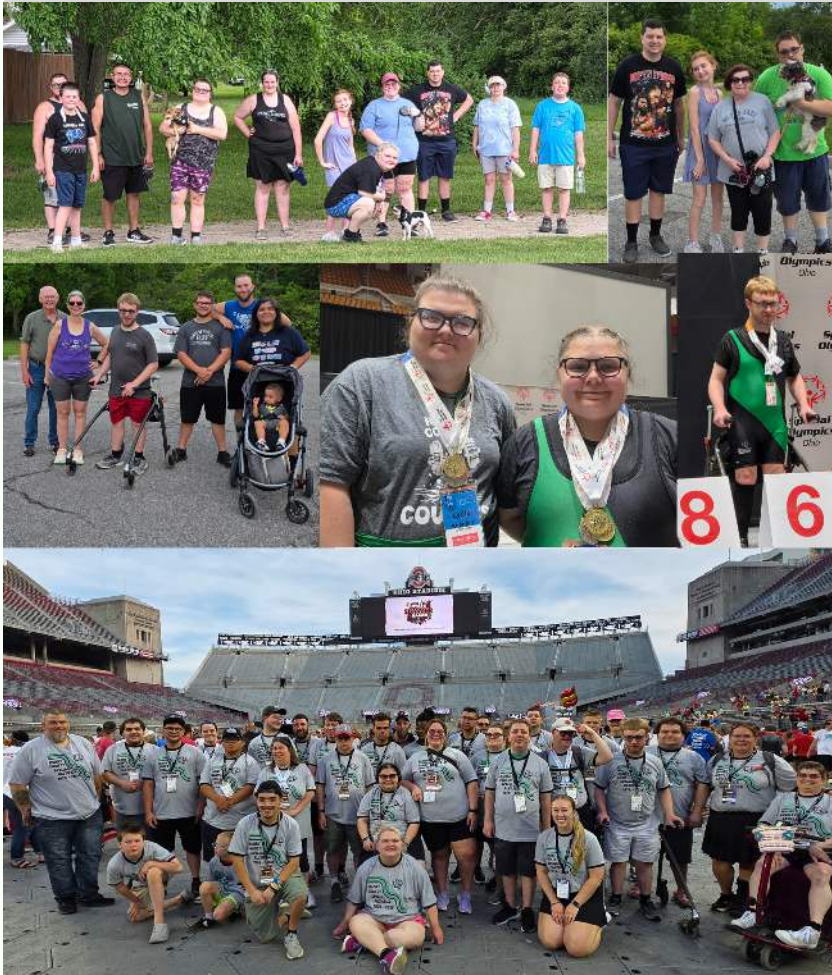
Coaches: Lydia Knepper and Tyler Silveous

Our athletes are working hard and are determined to see if they can bring home another state title this year!

There is always so much happening, and we truly could not do it without our amazing community. ❤️

📞 Interested in helping? Contact Zach 419-260-2176 zmeister@henrydd.org Renita 419-601-2372 rkuehner@henrydd.org





COUGARS SOFTBALL

Home Games
TUESDAY JULY 14 - LUCAS CTY
TRADITIONAL

THURSDAY JULY 16 - DEFIANCE
CTY
TRADITIONAL AND SKILLS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 - WILLIAMS
TRADITIONAL AND SKILLS

Henry County Special Olympics Athlete Banquet

When: Thursday, September 3
Time: 6-8 pm

Filling Home Community Center,
470 Independence Dr.
Napoleon

Bring a side dish to share.

RSVP to Zach (419)260-2176 or Renita (419)601-2372

🏈 Flag Football Season Begins

Flag football assessments are complete, and practices are underway! We're excited to have two teams competing this season.

Green Team (D1):

Skylar Miller, Tyler Silveous, Keith Rose, Tracy Rose, Vinnie Simon, Jacob Heath, Anthony Delgado, Domenik Salinaro, Zach Parcher, Griffin Paradise

Black Team (D3):

Cody Steen, Job Knepper, Collin Johnson, Aryon Nolan, Aaron Delgado, Anthony Cline, Utah Harris, Dalton Kidd, Juan Delgado, Robby Bauer

Coach: Job Knepper

We are looking forward to a great season of teamwork, skill-building, and competition—be sure to come out and support!

📣 Cheerleading Update


Our cheerleading program continues to grow! With 23 athletes participating this summer, this is our largest group ever. Athletes are building routines, teamwork, and spirit while supporting all sports programs.


This year's team consists of Linda Baser, Jordyn Beilharz, Jessica Clapp, Dallas Cupp, Hannah Damman, Adrienne Gerken, James Guinn, Utah Harris, Jenny Hartford, Nola Hoskins, Joey Kuehner, Caty Kuehner, Logan Parker, Jacob Parry, Sammi Phillips, Rockne Saunders, Breckin Maas, Caitlin McCafferty, Bella Moon, Bishop Nieto, Maya Queen, Mia Ramirez, and Terri Jo Stover.

They will compete in 5 cheer festivals—watch for us at local fairs and come cheer along! The Inclusion Revolution is Real—let's hear those C-O-U-G-A-R-S!


Cornhole Season – Sign Ups Now Open!


Get ready—Cornhole season is right around the corner!

 Assessments: August 12

 5:00–6:30 PM

 HOPE Services

 Practices: Monday Nights

 5:00–6:30 PM

 HOPE Services

We're excited to see both new and returning athletes join us for another fun season.

Athlete Leadership






Our Athlete Leadership team has been busy upgrading our cornhole boards with custom designs featuring our county mascot.

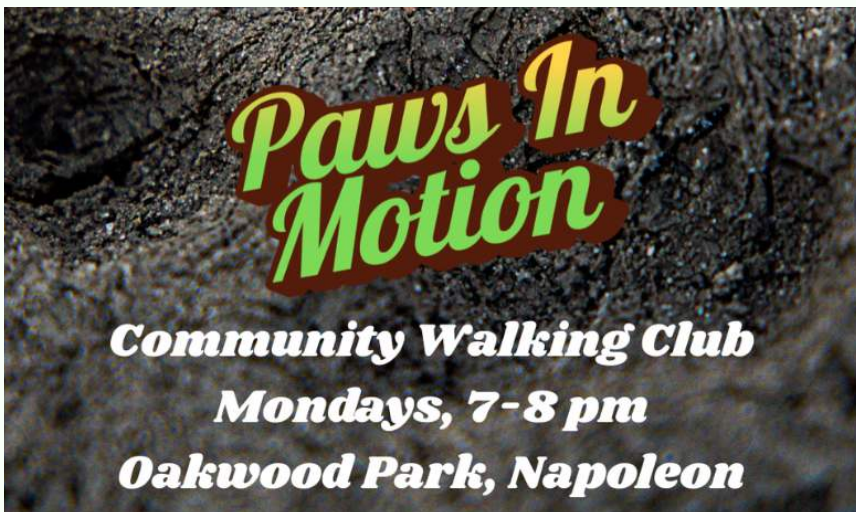
At their monthly meeting, athletes heard from Mayor Joe Bialorucki and Councilman Victor Gaucin, gaining valuable insight into local government and what it takes to serve the community. It was an inspiring and educational experience as athletes explored how they can make a difference.



Volunteers Needed

We have several opportunities as summer and fall seasons get underway:

-  Softball Skills Competitions – July 16 & July 22
-  Umpires for home softball games
-  Referees for flag football
-  Golf drivers
-  Cornhole volunteers and unified partners



COUGARS CORNHOLE SIGN-UPS ARE OPEN

PRACTICES WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 12 5-6:30 PM AT HOPE SERVICES.




**PLEASE CONTACT
ZACH (419)260-2176
RENITA (419)601-2372
TO SIGN UP TO PLAY OR VOLUNTEER**

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**

New Program: Paws in Motion Walking Group

We are excited to launch our new community initiative, Paws in Motion! This weekly walking group meets every Monday evening from 7:00–8:00 PM at Oakwood Park and will continue through the end of September.

This program is open to anyone who wants to get outside, get active, and enjoy a supportive environment. It has already become a great way to encourage one another and stay moving together.

Summer Youth Experiences Provide Opportunities for Learning and Growth

This summer, eleven youth had the opportunity to participate in meaningful community experiences designed to explore new environments, build skills, and gain valuable hands-on experiences.

We extend our sincere appreciation to Triangular Processing Inc., Active Day, COREe Residential, and 4A Distinctive Designs for opening your doors and allowing our youth to learn, grow, and experience a variety of settings. Your partnership helps create opportunities for youth to develop confidence, discover new interests, and build skills for the future.

These enriching experiences were made possible through the generous support of Family & Children First Council (FCFC), Keeping Families Together (KFT) Grant, ARPA funds, and local funding. We are grateful for the continued investment in our youth and their potential.



Quote of the Month

by Jessica

[quote] verb

“A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you.”

— Elbert Hubbard

We look forward to next month's quote...

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT DOG



For many individuals, an emotional support dog can provide comfort, companionship, and a greater sense of independence. Emotional support dogs are pets that help people manage emotional, mental health, or developmental challenges through their presence and companionship. Unlike service dogs, emotional support dogs are not trained to perform specific tasks. Instead, they provide consistent emotional support that can help reduce feelings of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and depression.

Their companionship can be especially meaningful for individuals who experience social isolation or have difficulty coping with daily challenges. One of the greatest benefits of an emotional support dog is the sense of routine they provide. Caring for a dog involves daily responsibilities such as feeding, walking, grooming, and playtime. These activities encourage structure, responsibility, and physical activity, all of which contribute to overall well-being.

Emotional support dogs can also help individuals feel more confident and engaged in their communities. Taking a dog for a walk or visiting pet-friendly locations often creates opportunities for social interaction and connection with others. These positive experiences can help build communication skills, foster relationships, and increase community participation.

For individuals who benefit from animal companionship, an emotional support dog can be much more than a pet. They become trusted companions, sources of comfort, and valued members of the family, helping individuals live fuller, more connected lives.

MaryEllen welcomed a new friend, Barney, into her life in April. Since then, she has enjoyed taking daily walks with him around the neighborhood, spending time playing with him, and giving him plenty of affection and attention. MaryEllen also enjoys relaxing with Barney at home, where his companionship brings her comfort and joy.

Caring for Barney has become an important part of MaryEllen's daily routine, providing structure, purpose, and motivation. Through their shared activities and companionship, Barney has quickly become a beloved member of her family. Their bond continues to grow each day, enriching MaryEllen's life with friendship, comfort, happiness, and a greater sense of connection.

SENSORY SUMMER DAYS

Local Resource Guide for Henry County Families



1. BACKYARD & SPLASH PLAY



Cooling Tactile Input: Water acts as an incredible natural regulator on a hot afternoon. Work on dynamic focus with watercolor paints, water table setups, or cleaning Crayola Scribble Scrubbies right at home.

- **Ice Block Excavation:** Freeze toy figurines in ice blocks and let children safely chip them free with non-sharp household tools.
- **Floating Engineering:** Build little test boats out of toilet paper rolls, blocks, pine cones, or rocks to see what floats.
- **Local Aquatics:** Take a trip to the **Napoleon Aquatic Center** to explore the zero-entry leisure pool and interactive splash/playground features.



2. INDOOR TEXTURAL EXPLORATION



Beat the Midday Heat: When the sun gets too intense, bring the tactical engagement indoors with quiet sensory play.

- **Immersive Bins:** Fill shallow bins with distinctive, regulating textures like kinetic sand, dried corn, oats, beans, or dry pasta for hands-on discovery.
- **Taste-Safe Messy Play:** Make clean "mud pies" using flour and cocoa powder. Practice fine motor skills by planting fake flowers into real dirt or crushed cocoa cereal.



3. VISUAL REFUGES & MOVEMENT



Proprioceptive Spaces: Use simple environments to introduce grounding pressure or calming, immersive visuals.

- **Calming Hideaways:** Build a grand blanket fort in a completely unexpected corner of the room. The dark, enclosed space paired with a light projector or Lite Brites makes an exceptionally peaceful decompression chamber.
- **Heavy-Work Lines:** Hang yarn across an interior doorway to act as an active "car wash" boundary. Build board book or domino lines to knock down, or wind down with weighted items.



4. OUT & ABOUT: NORTHWEST OHIO OUTINGS



Community Excursions: Car rides offer wonderful vestibular tracking, and local trails provide intense proprioceptive grounding. Plan a short trip to these nearby destinations:

- **Kidz Kingdom (Napoleon):** Located on Glenwood Ave, this is an excellent, engaging playground space with a wide layout perfect for burning energy.
- **Ritter Park & Oberhaus Park:** Enjoy peaceful riverside walking paths and open green areas right along the Maumee River.
- **Harrison Lake State Park:** Located just to our north, it offers beautiful shaded hiking trails and calm water play spaces away from crowds.

MORE NEARBY SENSORY OPPORTUNITIES

Sensory Days & Libraries: Keep an eye out for *Sensory Friendly Tuesdays* at Sauder Village in Archbold for an accessible, low-stimulation outdoor experience. Check your local library branches for interactive summer kid programs.

Accessible Gardens: For an exceptional sensory-specific trip, drive down to the *Doneghy Inclusive Garden* at Metroparks Toledo to enjoy the tactile sensory water wall and accessible paths.



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



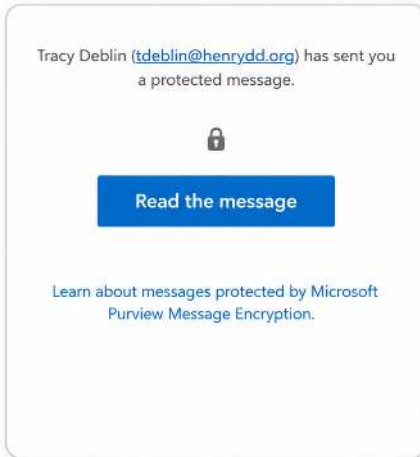
You will receive another email with your passcode.

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.



COORDINATED ENTRY IN-PERSON

HENRY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OUTREACH HENRY COUNTY

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



HOPE SERVICES FOUNDATION

SAVE THE DATE

HOPE Services Foundation ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BBQ

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



Henry County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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