

MEDINA MONTHLY

E-Newsletter

2026

November

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From the Mayor's Desk



Hello Medina! As I am completing my first year in office, I want to take the time to thank Medina residents for entrusting me to take care of our great city. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as mayor of my hometown. I have met so many nice people as well as reconnecting with residents I have known my entire life. I will never take it for granted that I am lucky enough to serve this community and I will never stop working to do the best for Medina and its residents.

One of our goals from the city administration is to communicate and keep residents updated about Medina. The Administration, partnering with City Council, has established a Communications Department. This new department has launched many new communications related initiatives including this monthly newsletter and the Mayor's Minute video updates. We will continue to look for ways to connect with the public. I am always open to hearing your ideas on ways we can continue to improve communication and as well as suggestions about other city services.

Each month I want to highlight something happening in the city. This month I am proud to share that the city moved Medina Municipal Court to its new location with the other Medina County Courts at 223 East Washington Street. We are proud that the city led the way to save and repurpose the 1969 Courthouse that sits on our historic public square. It also now provides a modern and secure courthouse facility that had been a need for nearly a quarter of a century.

Next, we need to evaluate our other municipal facilities and put together a plan to modernize and eventually replace some of our aging facilities. The first step is a feasibility study that will look at City Hall, the Police Department and the former Municipal Court building. The Water Department, Streets Department, Sanitation Department, and the Parks Department are located in facilities that date back as far as 1919 through the 1950's.

In these first few months in office, I am impressed that we have the right employees in place to take care of this wonderful community. I am so grateful for the employees who work for the city and serve our residents. I have witnessed many occasions where staff go above and beyond to take care of our city and our residents. Our staff get a lot done and do things very well. Thank you to the department heads, city employees, City Council, and all others who make Medina a great place to live, work, do business, and visit.

I look forward to working with City Council and city staff in the next few years to continue bringing residents the quality services that you have come to expect. Medina is a special place and collectively we keep it that way by being supportive of one another, kind to each other, and working together for the greater good of our community.

Respectfully,

Jim Shields
Mayor/Safety Director



News from City Council



John M. Coyne, III
President of Council

Moving Medina Forward in 2026

As President of Medina City Council, I am proud of the initiatives our council has started in 2026 to help improve safety throughout our community, and improve the everyday experience of residents, visitors, and local businesses. These efforts reflect Council's commitment to thoughtful planning, public safety, and preserving the character that makes Medina a great place to live, work, and visit.

One of Council's key initiatives in 2026 is the **Medina Comprehensive Deer Management Program**. With the deer population in the City of Medina continuing to grow, Council revamped the existing program to better address concerns related to deer overpopulation within the community through a comprehensive and responsible approach. The new approach addresses all aspects of deer management and includes: an advisory committee; an interactive website link; a sign-up list for residents to obtain harvested deer carcasses for personal consumption; identifying safe culling areas and providing notification to residents; detailed record-keeping; replenishment of destroyed native plants; and street signage. By beginning this work, Council is taking an important step toward understanding the issue, considering community concerns, and developing measures that support public safety and the long-term well-being of Medina.

Another initiative launched is the **Safe Sidewalk Program** to focus attention on the condition and safety of sidewalks throughout the City. This new program shifts the financial responsibility of repairing and replacing sidewalks from the homeowner to the City. Safe, accessible sidewalks are essential for residents walking to work, school, parks, businesses, and community activities. This initiative underscores the City's commitment to maintaining infrastructure that supports mobility, accessibility, and quality of life for all to enjoy.

In addition, we are addressing safety and traffic concerns on the **Medina City Square**. The Square is a central gathering place and an important part of Medina's identity, but it must also function safely for pedestrians, motorists, businesses, and events. Council's work in this area is intended to respond to safety and congestion concerns, improve awareness of traffic and pedestrian conditions, and help ensure that the Square remains welcoming and safe for everyone.

At the heart of these initiatives is our commitment to responsibly improving safety throughout Medina. The Deer Management Program will reduce hazards associated with deer overpopulation, including vehicle collisions and widespread damage to public and private property, while the Safe Sidewalk Program helps ensure that residents can travel safely and independently throughout the many walkable areas of our community. Work focused on the Medina City Square will further promote safe interactions among pedestrians, motorists, businesses, and event attendees by addressing traffic conditions and improving awareness in this busy public space.

Each of these initiatives addresses a different need, but together they demonstrate a consistent approach: listening to residents, identifying challenges and opportunities, and taking practical steps to improve the safety of our City, its residents, and visitors. As this work continues throughout 2026, Medina City Council will remain focused on responsible leadership, open communication, and solutions that best serve the community as a whole.

Working together, we can continue building a safer, stronger community.

Election Information

Early In-Person Voting

Medina County Residents may vote in-person at the Medina County Board of Elections Office, 3800 Stonegate Drive, Suite C, on the following dates and times:

Friday, October 30th: 7:30 am - 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 31st: 8 am - 4 pm

Sunday, November 1st: 1 - 5 pm

Absentee Voting by Mail

All absentee ballots must be received by the Board of Elections before the close of the polls on Election Day to be counted.

November 3rd General Election

Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. You can look up your voting location [HERE](#).

City of Medina Ballot Issue

The City of Medina will have an issue on the ballot on November 3, 2026. The issue reads as follows:

Medina City Ordinance Amendment

AN AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 161.01, 161.03(A), AND 162.013(A) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEDINA TO INCLUDE THE INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF SIDEWALKS AS A PERMITTED EXPENSE WITHIN THE 0.25% INCOME TAX ALLOCATION THAT IS CURRENTLY RESTRICTED FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR STREETS, STORM WATER, AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS.



A **Yes** vote will allow City Council to use a portion of the .25% Income Tax Allocation for maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of sidewalks.

A **No** vote will not allow City Council to use a portion of the .25% Income Tax Allocation for maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of sidewalks.

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding the issue:

Q: Is this a new tax?

A: No this is not a new tax or a tax increase. The City of Medina's income tax rate remains at 1.25%.

Q: What does this amendment mean for me?

A: The City of Medina currently allots 0.25% of income tax collected for maintenance, repair, and improvements to our city streets, storm water system, and utilities. If this amendment passes, the city would be able to use the 0.25% allocation for streets, storm water, utilities, **and** for the installation, maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of public sidewalks.

Q: Is the city currently repairing sidewalks?

A: Yes, the city is currently repairing sidewalks and are creating a database of future sidewalk projects. You can follow along with these projects by [clicking here to see the map](#).

For more information from City Council about this issue, click [HERE](#).





The holiday season is just around the corner and there is no city that celebrates with festive charm and holiday spirit quite like Medina. We're so proud that Medina has been voted one of the Best Small Towns in the U.S. at Christmas as recognized by HGTV in 2025, and the Medina Candlelight Walk was voted Best of the Best Annual Event by Medina Gazette readers this year! The 42nd Annual Candlelight walk will take place from Friday, November 20th through Sunday, November 22nd with the following events:

Friday, November 20 - Tree & Community Lighting

Saturday, November 21 - Parade & Fireworks

Sunday, November 22 - Santa Photos & Holiday Activities

The full schedule of events will be available soon!
Visit mainstreetmedina.com and medinaoh.org for updates.



Donations Appeal Underway for Medina's Holiday Decorations

In preparation for the 2026 holiday season and the 42nd Annual Candlelight Walk, the Main Street Medina Design Committee and the City of Medina have been working to create a new design plan for the gazebo, tree lights and ornaments, streetscape lighting and decorations, and featured pop-up displays that complement our Victorian-style Public Square.

Your help is needed to keep this beloved tradition growing. Consider making a donation of any size to show your community spirit and to keep Medina shining bright this holiday season. Our goal is to raise \$25,000 in individual donations from now until Giving Tuesday on December 1, 2026, and \$25,000 for the next three years totaling \$100,000. We have raised more than \$7,000 so far this year. To make a donation today, click [HERE](#) or use the donation boxes located around the Square starting in November.





Police Department

A Safe Season Starts With All of Us

By Police Chief Ed Kinney

As we head into November, the Medina Police Department offers a few reminders to help keep our streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces safe.

E-Bikes: Know What You're Riding

Electric bicycles continue to grow in popularity, and parents should understand a bike's classification and capabilities before allowing a child to ride. If an electric bike has foot pegs instead of functional pedals, it does not qualify as an e-bike under Ohio law and cannot legally be operated on public streets or sidewalks as an e-bike. Officers are taking enforcement action when they observe violations.

Ohio prohibits anyone under 16 from operating a Class 3 e-bike and requires helmets for all Class 3 operators and passengers. We recommend a properly fitted helmet for every rider. Riders should obey traffic signs and signals, yield to pedestrians, and maintain a safe speed. Parents should check where their child's particular e-bike is permitted to operate.

School Bus Safety: Give Children Room

With school in full swing and daylight growing shorter, please stay alert near schools and bus stops. On roads with fewer than four traffic lanes, drivers traveling in both directions must stop at least 10 feet from a school bus loading or unloading children. On roads with four or more traffic lanes, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. Remain stopped until the bus moves or its driver signals you to proceed. Slow down, put distractions away, and watch carefully for children.

Municipal Deer Management Update

The City's permitted archery program began September 26 and continues through February 7, 2027, as part of Medina's broader deer management efforts. Participating hunters must obtain a municipal permit through the Police Department and follow applicable hunting, property permission, and reporting requirements. The program aims to reduce deer-related crashes, property damage, and harm to natural habitats. Please respect posted closures and visit medinaoh.org for program information.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Medina a safe and welcoming community.

Shop With A Cop 2026

The Medina Police Department will again participate and support children from within the Medina City Schools in the annual Shop with a Cop event scheduled to occur in early December. This county wide first responder and agency collaboration provides children less fortunate with a day of Christmas fun and festivities. Children receive breakfast, a visit from Santa, lights and sirens parade, shopping, lunch, and more - all in the company of first responders! Community support is vital to the success of this heart-warming, charitable event. Monetary donations can be dropped off at, or sent to, the Medina Police Department, 150 W. Friendship Street, Medina, Ohio, 44256. Checks made payable to: Medina County Law Enforcement Association (MCLEA). Inquiries can be directed to Natalie Santivaschi by emailing at nsantivaschi@medinaoh.org or calling the department non emergency line, 330-725-7777.





Fire Department

Time Changes Come With Battery Changes

As you change your clocks this season, remember to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Working smoke detectors provide an early warning that can save lives, giving you and your family valuable time to escape a fire. Carbon monoxide detectors provide an important warning against this colorless, odorless, and potentially deadly gas.

The Medina Fire Department recommends testing your detectors regularly and replacing batteries at least twice a year. Don't wait until it's too late — change your batteries, test every detector, and make sure your home and loved ones are protected.



Service Department

Leaf Pickup Continues

Leaf pickup began in mid-October and will continue until there is snow and ice. The city has three vacuum trucks that make regular passes throughout the city to pick up loose leaves placed at the curb. When leaf pickup ends, residents will need to bag any remaining leaves for pickup on their regular trash collection day.

Important Reminders:

- Leaves should be placed on your tree lawn next to the curb. (If you do not have a tree lawn, put them as close to the city sidewalk as possible).
- Do not mix brush, grass, or rubbish in with leaves to prevent damage to equipment and injury to workers. Brush should be put out with your rubbish on your designated pick up day.
- Do not put leaves in the street.
- Do not allow children to play in the leaves or near the street.
- Do not park vehicles over leaves. The heat from the underside of the vehicle may cause a fire.



Photo Spotlight

Medina was the location of the America 250 Pumpkin Salute, where over 100 pumpkins were carved and put on display, lighting up the square in October. See our list of upcoming America 250 events on page 12!



Community Development

City Launches New Permit Software

New for the fall of 2026, the City of Medina Building and Planning Departments have implemented a new online application and permitting system through GovWell. The GovWell online portal allows applicants and City staff to easily submit, track, and manage permits and applications.

All permits and applications, as noted below, will only be accepted through the GovWell online portal at <https://app.govwell.com/medina-oh>, and paper applications will no longer be accepted.

Permits and Applications available through GovWell include:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Accessory Structure | • Fence | • Occupancy | • Windows/Doors |
| • Alteration | • Fire Alarm | • Parking Permit | • Zoning Certificate |
| • Contractor Registration | • Foreclosure | • Plumbing | • Historic Preservation Board |
| • Deck | • Generator | • Pool | • Planning Commission |
| • Demolition | • HVAC/Mechanical | • Roof | • Board of Zoning Appeals |
| • Driveway/Patio | • New Construction/ Addition | • Sign | |
| • Electrical | | • Waterproofing | |

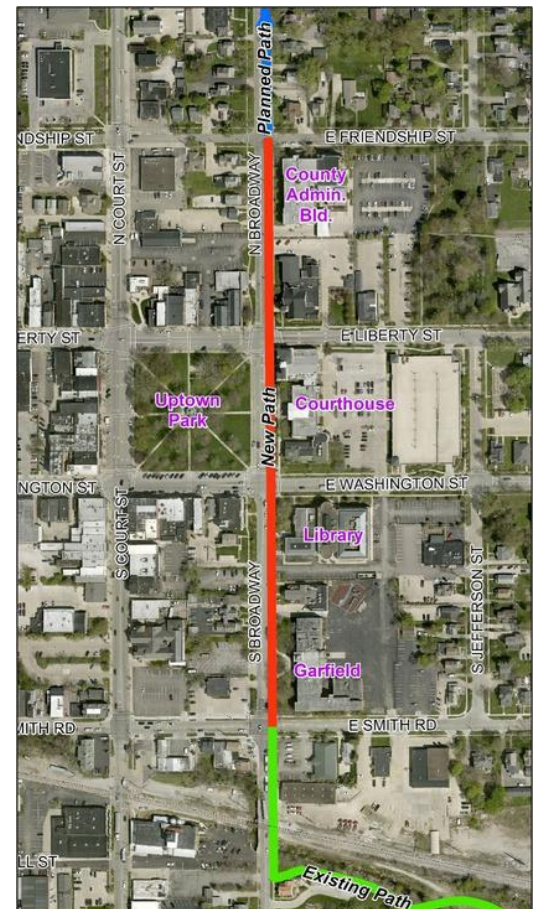
For those who do not have internet access or need assistance applying through the online portal, a kiosk is available at Medina City Hall, 132 N. Elmwood Ave., Medina, OH 44256. For questions regarding these changes or how to submit a Building Permit, please contact Christine Walters at cwalters@medinaoh.org or 330-722-9030, or a Zoning Application, please contact Sarah Tome at stome@medinaoh.org or 330-722-9038.

Phase 1 of Multi-Use Path Completed

Phase 1 of the “Uptown Loop” multi-use path is now open and accessible to the public. The path is located on the east side of Broadway St. and runs from E. Smith Rd. to E. Friendship St. The new multi-use path is 0.3 miles in length and extends an existing 2.1-mile path that ends at the southeast corner of S. Broadway St. and E. Smith Rd.

The Uptown Loop is the first phase of the City of Medina Multi-Use Path Plan, which was completed in 2024. The plan, which incorporated public input and a diverse steering committee, considers paths throughout the city and prioritizes path implementation.

Phase 1 of the Uptown Loop was funded by a \$398,600 State Capital Budget Grant and \$81,400 from the City of Medina.



Medina Rec Center

Rec on the Road



From early morning workouts, to late night pickup basketball games, the Medina Rec Center is designed to fit your schedule and offers a safe and fun environment that everyone in your family can enjoy. But did you know that the Rec Center also offers day trips and excursions that explore the fun locations and events Northeast Ohio has to offer? Leave the driving to us and make friends along the way!

"WinterLand" Adventure

November 28th, Depart Medina at 4 pm and return at approximately 9 pm

Kick off the holiday season with a festive trip to WinterLand in Cleveland's Public Square! Enjoy an evening filled with holiday music, delicious food, live entertainment, seasonal activities, and more. Snap a photo with Santa, roast s'mores over the fire pits, or take a spin around the ice rink. The fun continues with the debut of the all-new Illuminate CLE Holiday Light Show, featuring dazzling displays synchronized to music! The registration fee includes round-trip transportation to and from the festival. Register [HERE](#) by November 21st.



Experience the Magic of the Bavarian Christkindlmarkt!

December 6th, Meet at 11:15 am, depart at 11:30, and return at approximately 4 pm

Celebrate the holiday season with an unforgettable visit to the Bavarian Christkindlmarkt! This popular German holiday tradition is the perfect way to experience the magic of an authentic Christmas market. Enjoy delicious German-inspired food and beverages, including Glühwein, and browse more than 50 open-air booths featuring seasonal items from local artists and crafters. Additional highlights include visits from St. Nikolaus and Christkindl, family-friendly activities, horse-drawn carriage rides (available for an additional fee), and festive holiday photo opportunities. The fee includes admission to the event and round-trip transportation. Register [HERE](#) by November 29th.



The Medina Rec Center, offers:

- **Fitness Room & Free Weights**
- **Leisure Pool**
- **Competition Pool**
- **Field House with 4 full size courts**
- **Jogging/ Walking Track**
- **Fitness & Aerobic Classes**
- **Seniors Programs**
- **Toddler & Preschool Programs**
- **Learn to Swim Classes**
- **Swim Teams**
- **Water Aerobics & Therapy Classes**
- **Sports Leagues**
- **And more!**

For more info, upcoming events, and classes, click [HERE](#).



Celebrating Medina Businesses

October Ribbon Cuttings

On October 16th, the City of Medina, Main Street Medina, and the Greater Medina Chamber of Commerce welcomed these businesses to the city:



The Soul Retreat - Massage and Spa

Dealing with chronic pain or just need a self-care getaway? Treat yourself at The Soul Retreat! Specializing in therapeutic work, your therapist creates a treatment plan that is individually customized for you to help target your main concerns, and achieve the best outcomes. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about The Soul Retreat.

Cellar Stage

Cellar Stage is a small black box theater located on the lower level of Uptown West, at 120 West Washington Street, Suite 50. This theater offers intimate productions, a beer bar, and edgy programming. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Cellar Stage.



Zenvy Wellness

Located at 23 Public Square, LL 3, Zenvy Wellness is a health and wellness center specializing in non-invasive, drug-free pain relief and tissue regeneration using advanced technology such as SoftWave therapy, a cutting-edge treatment that uses acoustic waves to stimulate your body's natural healing processes. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Zenvy Wellness.

East to West Old World Market & Deli

East to West Old World Market and Deli, located at 503 South Court Street, Unit B, is a unique market and deli that offers packaged foods, refrigerated and frozen foods, bakery products, beverages, deli items, cheeses, meats, specialty European food products, and other grocery items. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about East to West Old World Market & Deli.



Celebrating Medina Businesses cont.

Bella Moxie II Collective

Located at 139 North Court Street, Units B & C, Bella Moxie is celebrating their 5th anniversary and the grand opening of Bella Moxie II Collective, a new event and gathering space. Isabelle's Studio will bring the space to life with themed events and workshops, along with classes led by local Artists. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Bella Moxie II Collective.



November 28th is Small Business Saturday

Small businesses are the heart of our communities. They keep our main streets thriving, employ 62.3 million people - nearly half of the American workforce - and account for 43.5% of our country's GDP. (U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy data).

Small Business Saturday is a wonderful opportunity to shop local and celebrate the independent businesses that make Medina special. When you choose a locally owned shop, restaurant, or service, more of your spending stays in our community, helping local entrepreneurs grow and supporting the jobs, schools, services, and neighborhoods we all share.

This holiday season, make a difference with every purchase by visiting Medina's small businesses and discovering the unique gifts, products, and experiences they offer. Your support strengthens our local economy and helps keep our downtown and commercial districts vibrant. Shop small, shop local, and share the community spirit this Small Business Saturday!



Ask Medina

Q: With the time change, I notice my street lights are not operating correctly. Who do I contact?

A: Call City Hall at 330-722-9020 and we will assist in reporting the issue to First Energy for repairs. The street address closest to the location of the light is needed to submit the repair request.

Have a question you want answered?
Email us at askmedina@medinaoh.org.



MEDINA *Serves*

Remembering Veterans, First
Responders, & Frontline Heroes



NOVEMBER 11, 7 PM VETERANS DAY SERVICE

St. Francis Xavier Church
606 E Washington St

Medina Community Band will play in concert and featured
speakers in a program to honor all veterans.

NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 10 AM - 5 PM OPEN HOUSE HONORING VETERANS

Veterans Hall
620 N Broadway

Open House for the public to honor the service and sacrifice of
veterans, and to visit displays of Medina's history at war. All
visitors will receive a hand-held American flag. Veterans will be
on hand to talk with visitors.

NOVEMBER 22, 4 PM VOICES OF MEDINA CELEBRATION CONCERT

St. Francis Xavier Church
606 E Washington St

Voices of Medina will feature singers from local church choirs
and community choirs joining together for Sing Democracy 250.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMERICA 250 SPONSORS!



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Medina Hospital

MEDINA GEM CO.



**Murray & Susan
Van Epp**



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Medina Meadows
REHABILITATION & NURSING CENTRE



November 1: Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 am. Be sure to turn your clocks back!

November 7: Medina Rec Pumpkin Smash, Reagan Park Sled Hill, 949 Weymouth Road, Noon to 2 pm.

November 11: Veterans Day. City Hall and the Municipal Court will be closed. There will be no change for rubbish collection.

November 7: Rocky Horror Picture Show movie showing, at 7:30 pm and Midnight at Haddad Theater. Presented and sponsored by Medina Show Biz, Black Cat Books & Oddities, and Cellar Stage. Tickets available [HERE](#).

November 11: Veterans Day Service, 7 pm, St. Francis Xavier Church, 606 E. Washington Street.

November 14 & 15: Open House Honoring Veterans, 10 am to 5 pm, Veterans Hall, 620 N. Broadway.

November 20 thru 22: 42nd Annual Medina Candlelight Walk. Friday – Tree & Community Lighting, Saturday – Parade & Fireworks, Sunday – Santa Photos and Holiday Activities. For a full calendar of events, click [HERE](#). Medina Town Hall & Engine House Museum will be open on November 20 from 6 pm to 8 pm and on November 21 from 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

November 22: Voices of Medina Celebration Concert, 4pm, St. Francis Xavier Church, 606 E. Washington Street.

November 25 thru 27: No school. Thanksgiving Break. School resumes Monday, November 30.

November 26: Thanksgiving Day. City Hall and Medina Municipal Court will be closed. Rubbish collection for Thursday and Friday will be delayed by one day.



Upcoming Events

Medina County Historical Society Hosts Holiday Open Houses

An annual holiday tradition, the Medina County Historical Society returns with Holiday Open Houses at the John Smart House, 206 N. Elmwood Ave., and McDowell-Phillips House, 205 S. Prospect St. The McDowell-Phillips House will be decorated in the holiday spirit by local businesses, groups, and MCHS members! Plus, the Gingerbread House Contest entries will be on display at the John Smart House for you to vote on. Both museums will be open on the following dates and times:

- Sunday, November 8 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, November 21 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Sunday, December 13 – 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Sunday, December 27 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Additionally, there will be special hours for gingerbread viewing and voting at the John Smart House:

- Friday, November 13 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Friday, November 20 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Friday, December 4 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Friday, December 18 – 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

In celebration of America 250, admission is by donation for both museums. They are also collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries.

Medina Performing Arts Center Events

Medina High School's Drama Club presents *She Kills Monsters*, November 13th thru November 15th at Medina High School in the Middle Stage Auditorium. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 pm; Sunday is at 2 pm. Tickets are on sale now. For more information and to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#).



Give the Gift of Life This Holiday Season

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. However, mounting pressures — including extreme weather disruptions to blood drives and long-term demographic shifts — are widening the gap between supply and demand. Sign up for one of these local blood drives and help save a life:

November 20: Medina Recreation Center, 10 am to 3 pm

November 25: Fire Station #1, 11 am to 5 pm

November 27: Root Candles, 10 am to 3 pm
Register to donate [HERE](#).





Contact Us

City Hall	330-725-8861
Building Department	330-722-9030
Cemetery	330-722-9056
Communications Department	330-636-3456
Economic Development	330-764-3319
Engineering Department	330-722-9034
Finance Department	330-722-9050
Fire Department (non-emergency)	330-725-1772
Forestry	330-722-9031
Law Department	330-722-9070
Mayor's Office	330-722-9020
Medina Rec Center	330-721-6900
Parks Department	330-721-6950
Planning & Zoning Department	330-722-9038
Police Department (non-emergency)	330-725-7777
Service Department	330-725-8861