



ERIE COUNTY
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
An Affiliated Partner of Greater Sandusky Partnership

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2024

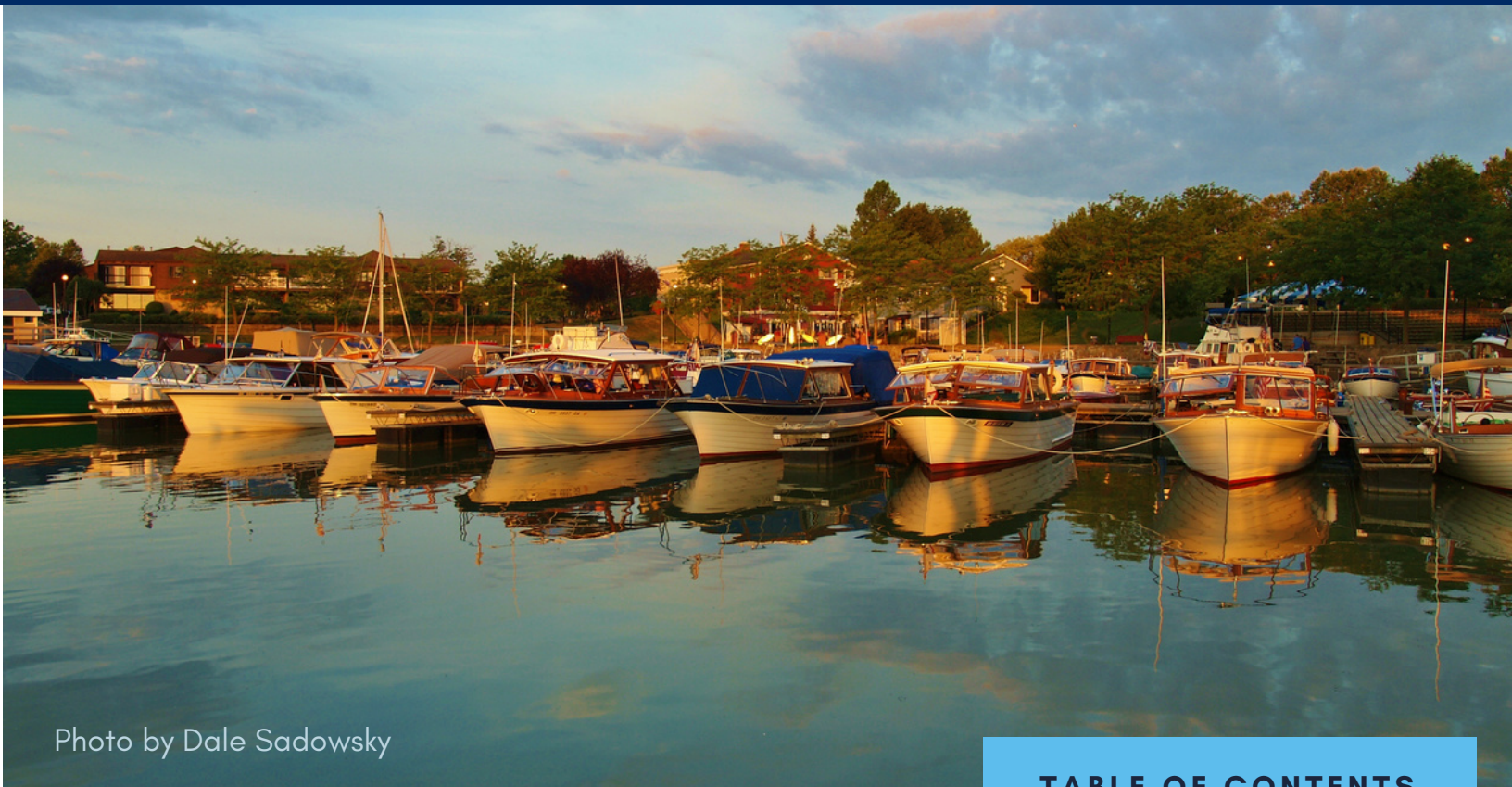


Photo by Dale Sadowsky

Dear Chamber Members,

There is a great line-up of events and programs over the next few months. Be sure to check out what's available from your fellow members and stop by some of these great happenings. A special note, the Total Solar Eclipse is drawing nearer each day. Destination Sandusky and Shores and Islands, Ohio have been doing their best to prepare businesses and residents for this cosmic event! Attend one of their monthly [Zoom calls](#) to learn more about Eclipse preparedness and programming.

Sincerely,

Alissa

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Upcoming Events

Feb. 16 - 25

Auto Show at the Sandusky Mall

Over 50 new cars on display! Vehicles will be lined up all around the mall for your viewing pleasure!

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, Feb. 22
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Wine & Whiskers

Wine, Dine & Make a Difference - Fundraiser for the Humane Society of Erie County

[Learn More](#)

Friday, Feb. 23
12pm - 1pm

Webinar: Recruiting & Training Employees

Trudy Riddle, Ohio Means Jobs, will share programs and resources to assist you in the recruitment and training of employees.

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, Feb. 29
5:30pm - 7:30pm

MBET Black Business Pioneer Awards

At this annual event the Minority Business Empowerment Team recognizes local black business leaders in honor of Black History Month

[Learn More](#)

Friday, Mar. 1
12pm - 1pm

Webinar: Cybersecurity

Frederick Remenyi from Spectrum Enterprises will discuss all ways to protect your business in the digital world.

[Learn More](#)

Saturday, Mar. 2
6:00pm

Beach Bash!

Bask in an evening of summer fun! Enjoy dinner, games, auctions, raffles, time with friends. Sponsored by Erie County CASA Program

[Learn More](#)

Mar. 4 - 10

Sandusky Restaurant Week

Dine local and taste the vibrant flavors of our city! Celebrate all week long with your favorite local eats.

[Learn More](#)

Friday, Mar. 7
9:00am

Total Solar Eclipse Meeting

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to learn how to stay safe during the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

Friday, Mar. 15
4pm - 8pm

Easter Bunny Arrives at The Sandusky Mall

There will be snacks and Easter crafts for the kiddos all evening

[Learn More](#)

To view all events and for more information, please visit:

<https://business.eriecounty.chamber.com/events>

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Mar. 16
9am - 11am

Brunch with the Easter Bunny

Enjoy brunch with the Easter Bunny at the Commons of Providence! Easter egg hunt to follow.

[Learn More](#)

Sunday, Mar. 17
9am - 10:30am

Sensory Easter Bunny

Does your child require quiet time in order to visit with the Easter Bunny? Visit the Sandusky Mall Sunday, Mar. 17th for the Sensory Easter Bunny

[Learn More](#)

Tuesday, Mar. 19
9:30am - 10:30am

Wage Issue Learning Session

Join the Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance to learn how a potential elimination of the tipped wage could impact your business

[Learn More](#)

Friday, Mar. 22
9:00am

Strides Toward Wellness

Get moving and learn with our monthly doctor-led walk, focusing on a variety of health topics.

[Learn More](#)

Saturday, Mar. 23
10am - 11am

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Have breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Sandusky Mall - hot-boxed breakfasts provided by Another Broken Egg.

[Learn More](#)

Saturday, Mar. 23
10am - 4pm

Sports Card and Collectibles Show

Have a favorite sports player or team? Stop out to the Sandusky Mall and check out the show!

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, Mar. 28
9:00am

Total Solar Eclipse Meeting

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to ask your last-minute questions about the 2024 Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

Tuesday, Apr. 2
9:00am

Total Solar Eclipse Meeting

Join Shores & Islands, Ohio and Destination Sandusky to ask your last-minute questions about the 2024 Solar Eclipse!

[Learn More](#)

April 5 - 8

Total Eclipse of SUNdusky

An event of celestial proportions is coming to Sandusky two months from today. A Total Solar Eclipse will occur across the city's sky on April 8, 2024.

[Learn More](#)

To view all events and for more information, please visit:

<https://business.eriecounty.chamber.com/events>



Stories you may have missed...



Addressing the great thirst:

Kalahari's Nelson family plans to commit \$50 million toward a pledge to provide clean water to one million people in Africa.

MARK KOESTNER | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024

The irony is not lost on Todd and Shari Nelson, nor their children. In fact, it's part of the story.

The husband-and-wife team, high-school sweethearts, are the operators of what is perhaps the largest privately owned waterpark company in the world, [Kalahari Resorts & Conventions](#). The business boasts many of the largest waterparks in the United States, sprawling properties of water-filled family fun.

But the Kalahari moniker stems from a place that is largely devoid of dependable water, an African sub-desert. In native tongues, "Kalahari" can be translated to "the great thirst" or "waterless place."

[Read the full story at www.thehelmsandusky.com](http://www.thehelmsandusky.com)



2024 PAYNE NICKLES & COMPANY ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP RENAMED IN HONOR OF TODD SPORE

Norwalk, Ohio – February 9th, 2024 – Payne Nickles & Company, CPAs, is pleased to announce the renaming of its 2024 Payne Nickles & Company Accounting Scholarship to the Todd Spore, CPA Memorial Scholarship. This renaming is a heartfelt tribute to Todd R. Spore, CPA, a cherished member of the Sandusky community and a beloved colleague at Payne Nickles & Company, who passed away on November 6, 2023, after bravely battling cancer.

The Todd Spore, CPA Memorial Scholarship will continue to provide financial assistance to students pursuing an accounting degree, helping them fulfill the 150-hour requirement necessary to undertake the CPA exam. **Through partnership with the Erie County & Huron County Community Foundations, the scholarship will award up to two (2) recipients with \$2,000 each, supporting their educational endeavors and fostering their growth as future accounting professionals.** The application deadline is March 1st.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a resident OR high school graduate of Erie, Huron, Ottawa, Sandusky, Lorain, Seneca, Crawford, Richland, or Ashland, Ohio counties.
- First, second, third, fourth, or fifth year college student with an accounting focus/ major or minor.
- Minimum 2.8 grade point average.
- **Completion of the Universal Scholarship Application online at <https://www.huronccf.org/scholarships> by March 1st, 2024.**

Selection for this prestigious scholarship will be based on merit, financial need, and community involvement, reflecting Todd Spore's dedication to service. The scholarship will be disbursed directly to the institution in one installment, ensuring it aids in covering educational expenses.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the Huron County Community Foundation website at www.huronccf.org for detailed application instructions. Payne Nickles is pleased to partner with the Erie County & Huron County Community Foundations, which allow applicants to apply for numerous scholarship opportunities at once through an easy, accessible online application. A final decision will be announced in July.

Continued on next page...



For further inquiries, please contact Abbey Bemis, Payne Nickles Chief Operating Officer at abbeyb@pncpa.biz.

About Payne Nickles & Company

Payne Nickles & Company is a full-service accounting and business advisory firm with offices in Sandusky and Norwalk, Ohio. Payne Nickles & Company CPAs and Business Advisors offer a full range of financial reporting services, tax and financial planning, estate and succession planning, litigation support, forensic accounting, business valuation, retirement plan consulting, payroll administration, and QuickBooks consulting services. For more information, visit pncpa.biz.

About Todd R. Spore, CPA [1978 – 2003]

The renaming of the Payne Nickles & Company Accounting Scholarship to the Todd Spore Memorial Scholarship is a testament to Todd's enduring legacy and the profound impact he had on his community and colleagues. Todd loved his job in accounting, even during tax season. After working in business and finding his love of numbers, Todd had gone back to school for a Masters in Accounting. He studied and passed his CPA exam while juggling work and a growing family. A dedicated CPA at Payne Nickles & Company, Todd's commitment to excellence, compassion, and community involvement exemplified the values that the scholarship aims to honor and perpetuate.

TILT

Studio

FUN at FULL BLAST!

COMING SOON

Near Center Court



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WINE & WHISKERS

FUNDRAISER

Feb. 22, 2024
5:30-7:30



\$60

Wine, Dine & make a Difference!

- 🐾 5 3oz wine pours with tasting notes
- 🐾 Small bite pairings from Sweet Potato Catering
- 🐾 Virtual silent auction - closes at 7:00



Purchase tickets online today!
[Humanesocietyoferiecounty.org](https://humanesocietyoferiecounty.org)
Click on event tab or scan QR code



FUNDRAISER LOCATION

Venue
634

634 Columbus Avenue • Sandusky, Ohio



MBET

Empowering the *Minority* to become the successful *Majority*

**JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL
BLACK BUSINESS PIONEER EVENT**

**EMPOWERING MINORITY-OWNED
BUSINESSES IN THE GREATER
SANDUSKY REGION**

REGISTER NOW





Beach Bash!



sponsored by: Erie County CASA Program

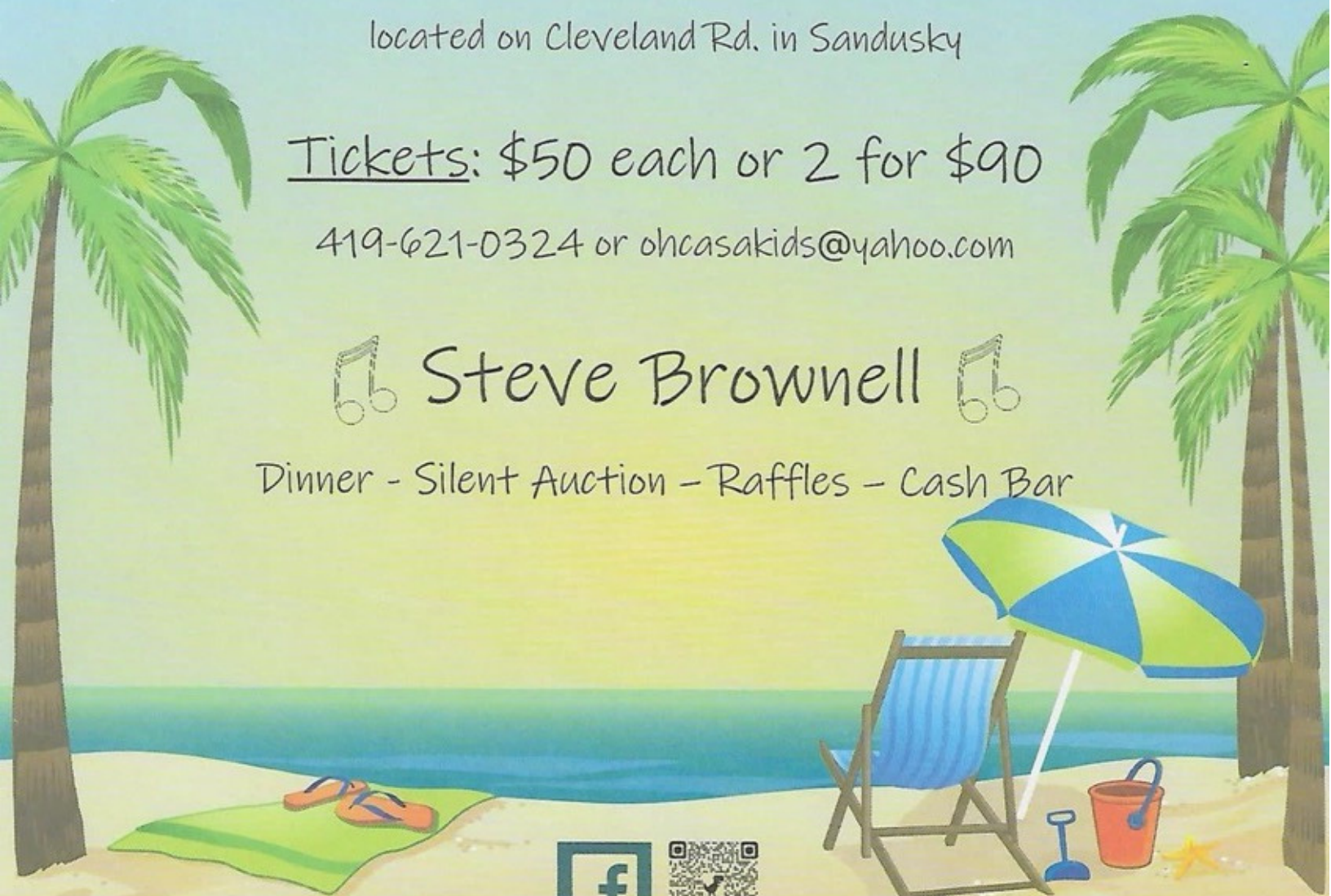
Saturday, March 2, 2024
at 6:00 p.m.

Ten Fifty Eight Event Center
located on Cleveland Rd. in Sandusky

Tickets: \$50 each or 2 for \$90
419-621-0324 or ohcasakids@yahoo.com

🎵 Steve Brownell 🎵

Dinner - Silent Auction - Raffles - Cash Bar





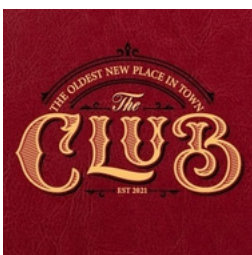
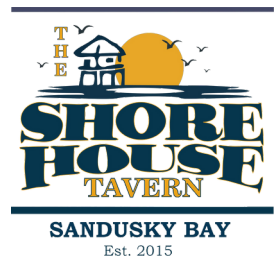
Sandusky

RESTAURANT WEEK

March 4-10, 2024

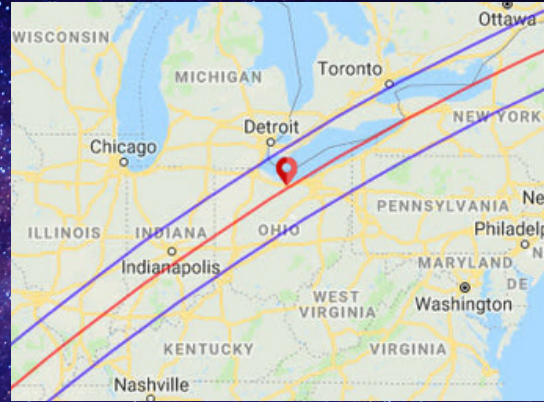
DINE LOCAL

during this week-long celebration of the vibrant flavors of our city. Savor the taste of Sandusky with specialty Restaurant Week Menu items at each of these great eateries.



Save the Date!

Solar Eclipse
**SHORES &
ISLANDS**
OHIO **04.08.24**



Learn fun facts, plus stay informed on local events & safety protocols.



Businesses, be prepared for this stellar experience!

On April 8, 2024, the moon will completely block out the sun for a rare total solar eclipse. Due to our global position directly in the path of totality, our communities in and around Shores & Islands Ohio will enjoy incredible, unobstructed viewing time of approximately four minutes. With this exciting event, comes a need to prepare. **Join us March 7th to learn how to stay safe during the eclipse & more!**

Join the meeting here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82962717351?pwd=UzbdjCS38TeaZFsW9PzsWNJKqazj8R.1>

Or Scan the code:



Meeting ID: 829 6271 7351
Passcode: 298362



9 a.m.



Friday,
March 7th



Zoom

BRUNCH WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

Join us for brunch, drinks, and fun! There is no charge for this event, however, donations will be accepted for the Walk to End Alzheimers.

Saturday, March 16th from 9-11

Easter egg hunt to follow at 11

THE COMMONS OF PROVIDENCE

5000 PROVIDENCE DRIVE, SANDUSKY, OH



Egg Hunt



Photobooth



Bloody Mary
Bar

RSVP to Maria at 419-624-1171 by 3/13

WAGE ISSUES

OHIO

Join the Ohio Restaurant & Hospitality Alliance in partnership with the Erie County Chamber, the Greater Sandusky Partnership, Shores & Islands and Ottawa County Improvement Corporation to learn how a potential elimination of the tipped wage could impact your business.



SPEAKERS



Laz Picciano
Membership Growth & Engagement Manager
OHIO RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE



Tod Bowen
Managing Director of External Affairs & Government Relations
OHIO RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY ALLIANCE

WHEN

Tuesday, March 19²⁰/₂₄
9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Refreshments provided.

WHERE

Kalahari Resorts and Conventions
7000 Kalahari Drive
Sandusky, OH 44870



EATDRINKOHIO.ORG/EVENTS

NO COST TO ATTEND

QUESTIONS? Cait Masarik | 380.219.6060

What's going on at The Mall?



SMS CRAVINGS GIVEAWAY

February 1st - 29th

Chance to Win a \$250 Mall Gift Card!



Here's how:

1. Sign up for our Mobile Club. Text "**SHOP**" to **(855) 788-0642**.
2. **Spend \$10** or more from any Sandusky Mall restaurants: (including Texas Roadhouse, Cracker Barrel, Another Broken Egg, Cheers (no alcohol purchases accepted), Asian Express, Mrs. Fields and Auntie Anne's)
3. Take your receipt and phone showing the SMS message to the Information/Security Booth.

Already a Mobile Club member? Show your receipt and phone containing an SMS text message you received in between Feb. 1st -29th and enter to win!



AUTO SHOW at The Sandusky Mall

Feb. 16th - Feb. 25th Open During Mall Hours

Sponsored by the Sandusky Automobile Dealers Association.

Firelands Toyota, Firelands Honda, Firelands Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, Ken Ganley Buick GMC, Mathews Ford and Foster Chevrolet

Over 60 new cars on display! Vehicles will be lined up all around the mall for your viewing pleasure! Stop out any time during normal mall hours and get an up-close look at all the new models proudly on display from our local dealerships.



Sports Card and Collectibles

Show March 23rd 10am - 4pm

Sponsored by W&W Cards and Collectibles.



NEW THIS YEAR! Have a favorite sports player or team? Stop out to the Sandusky Mall and check out the Sports Card and Collectibles Show!

What's going on at The Mall?



STRIDES TOWARD WELLNESS

March 22nd at 9am

Sponsored by Firelands Health.

Get moving and learn with our monthly doctor-led walks, focusing on a variety of health topics. Sponsored by Firelands Health. The doctor will speak at the beginning and end of the walk and be available for questions throughout. We encourage walkers of all ages and abilities. The topic this month will be "Strategies to Prevent & Treat Obesity".



Easter Bunny Arrival: Friday, March 15th 4pm - 8pm

There will be snacks and Easter crafts for the kiddos all evening. The Easter bunny will be here from 4pm – 8pm.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny: Saturday, March 23rd

10am – 11am – *Reservations are required.*

Kids \$7 and Adults \$13 – CASH ONLY. No credit/debit cards.

Have breakfast with the Easter Bunny! Enjoy hot-boxed breakfasts provided by **Another Broken Egg**. **Reservations required.** Call the Mall Office (during office hours) for reservations **419-626-8575** by March 20th. After breakfast, in Center Court, there will be coloring and crafts for the kids to do or take home **PLUS... a Bouncy House and Glitter Tattoo Artist from 10:30am – 2:30pm.**



Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny:

Mondays - March 18th and March 25th 5pm – 7pm

Sensory Bunny: Sunday, March 17th 9am – 10:30am

Does your child require 'quiet time' in order to visit with the Easter Bunny?

Easter Bunny Schedule:

Mon – Fri 4pm – 8pm

Saturdays 11am – 8pm

Sundays 11am – 6pm

Good Friday, March 29th 11am – 8pm

Saturday, March 30th 11am – 8pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Wellness Expo
April 19th 10am – 2pm

Spring Craft & Vendor Show
May 11th 10am – 6pm

Auto Show

AT THE

Sandusky Mall

FEBRUARY 16-25

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
DURING MALL HOURS**

**SPONSORED BY THE
SANDUSKY AUTOMOBILE
DEALERS ASSOCIATION**

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TOYOTA

FIRELANDS
HONDA

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Mathews
Ford

FOSTER

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**50 New
Cars On
Display!**



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10am to 9pm, Mon.-Sat. • 11 am to 6pm, Sun. • 4314 Milan Road Sandusky, OH 44870 • 419-626-8575

SANDUSKY
MALL

SPORTS & CARDS & COLLECTIBLES SHOW

MARCH 23
10AM-4PM

LOCATED NEAR THE
JCPENNEY ENTRANCE

VISIT [SANDUSKYMALL.COM](https://www.sandusky Mall.com) FOR DETAILS!

All events are subject to change or cancellation without notice.
See the Information/Security Booth or call (419) 626-8575 for complete details.

SPONSORED BY



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Strides

Toward Wellness



9 a.m. at the
Sandusky Mall

Main entrance. The walk
begins in the food court

Friday
March 22nd
9am

Get moving and learn with our monthly doctor-led walk, focusing on a variety of health topics.

- Monthly doctor-led walk.
- Monthly wellness topics.
- Free and open to all fitness levels.



For more information
go to firelands.com/strides or call 419-557-7410

Hoppy Fun!

**BREAKFAST WITH
THE EASTER BUNNY!**

MARCH 23

10AM-11AM • FOOD COURT

\$7 Kids, \$13 Adults

**Reservation required. Call 419-626-8575 for
reservations and information.**

Activities and fun in Center Court following breakfast!

**Hot Boxed Breakfasts
provided by:**



— ANOTHER —
Broken Egg Cafe

S A N D U S K Y
 M A L L



SanduskyMall.com • MallGiftCards.net

10am to 9pm, Mon.-Sat. • 11am to 6pm, Sun. • 4314 Milan Road Sandusky, OH 44870 • 419-626-8575



FREE Webinar Series Feb - Mar

Erie County Economic
Development

February 9th from 12:00 to 1:00

[Julie Reynolds from Bureau of Workers' Compensation](#) to discuss the various programs available to business to increase workplace safety including the Safety Grant.

February 16th from 12:00 to 1:00

[Erika Bowers from TeamNEO](#) to discuss the various programs offered by JobsOhio. Ranging from the Inclusion Grant for small business to Economic Development Grants for large business and everything in between.

February 23rd from 12:00 to 1:00

[Trudy Riddle from Ohio Means Jobs](#) to discuss programs that assist in recruiting and training employees offered by the State of Ohio such as Job Creation Tax Credits, On the Job Training Dollars, etc.

March 1st from 12:00 to 1:00

[Fred Remenyi from Charter Communications](#) to discuss various ways companies can protect themselves in the cyber space.

Register now at <https://bit.ly/2024-Webinars>





nami

National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Erie County
Ohio**

NAMI of Erie County hosts TWO free mental health support groups!

- **Family Support Group (For loved ones of individuals with a mental illness)**
- **Connections Support Group (Peer led - for anyone diagnosed)**

Our support groups are held on the **third Thursday of every month at 6 pm**. They give individuals the opportunity to speak about their experiences with mental illness and give/receive support.

Both of our support groups are free of charge with no registration required!

At NAMI of Erie County we respect your privacy and our groups are safe spaces to share.

Follow us on
social media!



Nami Erie



nami.in.erie@gmail.com



419-370-6352



138 E Market Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870



Dates of our next 6
meetings:

11/16/23

12/21/23

1/18/24

2/15/24

3/21/24

4/18/24

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF *SUNdusky*

To celebrate this historic event, the City of Sandusky and Destination Sandusky are planning the Total Eclipse of SUNdusky Festival, a cosmic extravaganza that includes educational events, a music festival, and an out of this world market.

The Total Eclipse of SUNdusky schedule includes:

- Wednesday, April 3 – Cosmic Education with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History’s Senior Astronomer Nick Anderson
- Thursday, April 4 – Jeepclipse: A Celebration of 4x4s on April 4 (4/4)
- Friday, April 5 – Little Shop of Horrors movie screening and Pavilion Plant Takeover with the Friends of the Sandusky Greenhouse
- Saturday, April 6 – Twilight: Eclipse movie screening
- Saturday, April 6 - Monday, April 8 – Music Festival

Music Schedule

Saturday, April 6

- 12pm - Flying J’s
- 2pm - Swagg
- 5pm - The Kinsman Dazz Band

Sunday, April 7

- 12pm - Steve Brownell
- 2pm - Follow the Sun
- 5pm - Killer Flamingos

Monday, April 8

- 12pm - The Menus

All events will be free and open to the public. The Cosmic Education event on April 3 will take place at the Cedar Point Sports Center and all other events will be on the Jackson Street Pier.



DESTINATION
Sandusky

Mother's Day Brunch

FLOWER BOUQUET BUILDING & LIVE MUSIC

Date:

Saturday, May 11th,
2024

Join us for an enchanting Mother's Day celebration that promises a delightful fusion of food, creativity, and music! Indulge in a flavor-packed brunch featuring a wide array of unique dishes. Then, embrace your creative side in our Flower Bouquet Workshop, where you and your special guest will have the chance to design a personalized bouquet with a vast assortment of fresh and vibrant flowers at your disposal. Take your masterpiece home with you as a cherished memento and token of beauty.

Ticket Price: \$79.00 per person

[REGISTER](#)
[NOW](#)

Location:

Castalia Farms, 7101
Heywood Road,
Castalia, OH, 44824

Time:

10:30am to
12:30pm



Membership Benefits: Small Business Health Benefits



The Erie County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) and Medical Mutual to offer a new type of health insurance coverage for our member businesses, titled the Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA). This coverage is available for businesses with 50 or fewer employees, including business owners with no employees.

What the COSE Benefit Plan Offers:



Attract & Retain Talent

Ensure your most valuable employees are satisfied with both their job and their compensation package to increase longevity and retention.



Gain Tax Savings

Employers and employees pay less for health insurance when it is purchased at a group level because it is paid for with pre-tax dollars.



Network Access Benefits

Group health plans often have access to large networks of doctors and hospitals compared to an individual plan on the public exchange.



Get Broker Help

A broker can guide you through the process and help you find the best health plan for you and your employees.



One-Stop Shop

Dental, vision, group life, accidental death and dismemberment insurance and short-term disability can be added to your health insurance plan.



Cost Savings

In addition to health insurance, as a Chamber member, you can take advantage of savings on electricity and natural gas, office supplies, workers comp and more.

To learn more or sign up for this benefit package, contact the Erie County Chamber of Commerce at info@eriecountychamber.com



ERIE COUNTY CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

An Affiliated Partner of **Greater Sandusky Partnership**

604 W. Washington St.
Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-6421
<https://eriecountychamber.com>
info@eriecountychamber.com

Eric Wobser

CEO, Greater Sandusky Partnership
ewobser@greatersandusky.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Follow Us on Social Media!

