

# pathfinder

## The Pathfinder On-Line

The Olander Park System (TOPS) now "publishes" all editions of its events newsletter, *The Pathfinder*, on-line at [olanderpark.com](http://olanderpark.com). If you would like an email notice when TOPS posts a new *Pathfinder*, simply send your email to [clannen@olanderpark.com](mailto:clannen@olanderpark.com) and we will place you on the list. If you want *The Pathfinder* but do not have the Internet, contact office manager Cathi Lannen at 419-882-8313, extension #31 and she will add you to our snail-mail address form. Remain connected to TOPS through *The Paperless Pathfinder* at [olanderpark.com](http://olanderpark.com)!



## feature programs

### One Day Summer Camps

2 to 5-year-olds: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

6 to 11-year-olds: Noon to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1; Thursday, July 9

Monday, July 13; Friday, July 24

Olander Park, Shelter #1

A fun-filled, fully packed three hours including a nature hike & hunt, crafts, swim and beach play, safety tips, first aid kit, relay challenges, organized games, and more. Pack a picnic lunch, wear a bathing suit under your clothing, and TOPS provides the rest. Parent attendance is optional.

### Ravenous Raptors

Thursday, July 9, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Olander Park, Nederhouser Community Hall

Delve deep inside the world of predator and prey as you learn what it takes to survive as a raptor. You will meet several birds of prey in this naturalist-led program, then build a kestrel or screech owl nest to take home. For ages 8 & above and children must have an adult guardian. \$18 for Nature's Nursery members; \$20 non-members; and no charge for adult guardians. Register with Nature's Nursery at 419-877-0060.

### Recycled Regatta

Thursday, July 30, Noon

Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop

The oldest regatta in North America takes place the first weekend in August each year, so kick off this historic event with your own miniature boat race on Lake Olander. Build your boat using only recycled materials, and keep it no longer than 2 feet, then let the wind sail it across the Lake. Prizes for the most creative, best name, and fastest & slowest boats among others!

### Frogtown Fair

Saturday, August 8, 9 am to 3 p.m.

Erie Street Market, FREE

Toledo's Division of Environmental Services sponsors its 2nd annual Frogtown Fair to focus on educating homeowners and families on adopting environmentally friendly practices in their everyday lives. View local company displays that champion realistic ideas for Greener living. You can purchase a rain barrel and/or exchange mercury thermometers for less toxic digital models. Entertainment and children's activities assure the entire family will enjoy exploring alternative methods of living geared toward reducing our energy needs and expenses. Go to [www.frogtownfair.org](http://www.frogtownfair.org) for more information.

### Overnight Cabin Camp Out!

Friday, August 21 at 6 p.m. to Saturday, August 22 at 3 p.m.

Devilbiss Boy Scout Camp, Camp Miakonda

Enjoy rustic camping in the middle of our suburban community! Pack light and leave all the planning to Mrs. G., as adventures unfold whatever the weather. Cabin rental is \$10 per person. On Friday, Chef John will grill the \*hobo\* cookout, compliments of TOPS. Savor a hot breakfast and/or lunch Saturday at Miakonda for \$5 per person, and enjoy a FREE family swim Saturday afternoon.

### Splash-Splash! Picnic & Boat Blast!

Sunday, August 30, 4 p.m.

Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop

Attend this End-of-the-Summer Extravaganza, with boating, picnicking, and swimming compliments of TOPS! Reservations limited.

Work is the meat of life; leisure is the dessert!

- B. C. Forbes



**2 to 11 Year Olds  
with Adult Guardian  
Clever Combos**

**Snazzy Sun Visors**

Thursday, July 2, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Olander Park, Shelter #1

Decorate a complimentary visor with the pizzazz of Red, White, & Blue to celebrate The Fourth of July.

**Good Morning, Mr. Sunshine**

Wednesday, July 8, 8 a.m.

Camp Miakonda, Ford Center

Enjoy the sunrise over Lake Sawyer, learn about scouting, experiment with sunshine, and enjoy a hot breakfast. \$2 per person.

**Breakfast & Browse-About**

Friday, July 17, 9 a.m.

Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter

After you help prepare and grill your own breakfast, look for floodplain plants that animals as well as people can safely eat.

**Finders Keepers**

Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m., 1 & 4 p.m.

Fossil Park

Search through the Devonian shale and unlock the past hidden in the Sylvania Silica.

**A Zoo for Trees**

Monday, July 27, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Stranahan Arboretum

Certain trees have obviously noticeable characteristics. Accept Mrs. G's challenge to identify each.

**Have a Beach Ball**

Monday, August 3, Noon

Olander Park, Swim & Beach Facility

After organized games and relays on the beach, take a well-deserved dip to cool off. Stay as long as you like!

**Candles in the Sand**

Thursday, August 6, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Olander Park, Swim & Beach Facility

Do you know how Lake O's sand got here? Bring your own container to fill with sand to carve the design for your candle.

**Sun & Science**

Monday, August 17, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Olander Park, Shelter #1

Do experiments with our Sun and discover what makes The Year of Astronomy so exciting!

**Especially for Home School Families**

Monday, August 31, 10 a.m.

577 Foundation, Perrysburg

After a guided tour of the educational complex, a close encounter with the birds and bees, and a chance to enjoy the lending library, we'll picnic and play at Side Cut Park.

**K to 5th Grade**

**Creation Station**

Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 4 p.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

20 registrants

Art is fun, so give the right side of your brain a creativity workout. Presented with the Sylvania Community Arts Commission.

**Summer Sizzles for Families**

**Swim, Splash & Sun Fun**

Fridays, July 10 & 31, 5 p.m.

Olander Park, Swim & Beach Facility

Enjoy Lake Olander's beach FREE, compliments of TOPS.

**Castles in the Sand**

Sunday, July 19, 3 p.m.

Olander Park, Swim & Beach Facility

Come prepared to create a monumental family work of art at TOPS Beach. All participants are prize winners!

**Crescent Moon Waxes**

Friday, July 24, 7 p.m.

Camp Miakonda

"Miakonda" actually means "crescent moon"! Roam these historic grounds as night falls, build a fire from scratch, and savor S'Mores.

**Family Fish Festival**

Sunday, July 26, 4 p.m.

Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop

Put your fishing skills to the test as TOPS provides all the rest: bait, boat, a treat to eat, and even a surprise!

**2 & 3 Year Olds  
with Adult Guardian  
Toddle Waddle**

**Toddle: Tuesday Play Dates**

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to Noon

July 7: Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter

July 14: Fossil Park

July 21: Sylvan Prairie Park

August 18: Southview Oak Savanna

Explore a new venue each week; pack your own picnic lunch.

**Toddle: Travelin' Time**

Tuesday, July 28, 10 a.m.

Providence Metropark

Explore the towpath, step inside the Ludwig Mill, picnic by the Providence Dam, and enjoy ice cream in Downtown Grand Rapids.

Tuesday, August 25, 10 a.m.

W. W. Knight Preserve Nature Center

Visit the hands-on nature classroom, walk the Preserve's trail, munch on your picnic lunch, and try your luck fishing.

**Toddle: Tell Us a Tale**

Tuesday, August 4, 10 a.m.

Sylvania Historical Village

Share a story, snack & stroll with Mrs. G.

**Sylvania Library & TOPS**

**Rock On, Sylvania!**

Tuesday, July 14, 7 p.m.

Rain Date: Wednesday, July 15

Fossil Park

Families venture into the quarry for a "rockin' good time" with Mary Leugers and Mrs. G. Solve the scavenger hunt as you search for treasures to ID. Check out the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail that encircles the quarry.

**Puppets in the Park**

Thursday, July 16, 2 p.m.

Olander Park, Shelter #1

The Puppet Lady, Joyce Davis, and her fascinating one-of-a-kind puppets set the stage for a tale. Sing songs with Mary Leugers and make a keepsake with Mrs. G.

Programs are ONLY for residents of The Olander Park System and are FREE unless a material fee is noted. Advance registration required at 419.882.8313 or via email at [info@olanderpark.com](mailto:info@olanderpark.com). If you or your family have special needs, please inform the park system when you register. If TOPS does not have any registrants by Noon the day prior to the program, it will be canceled. If any program has two registrants or less, TOPS reserves the right to cancel the event.

**Fossil Park** is at 5705 Centennial Road, across from Mayberry Square  
**Gorman Nature Education Center** is in the Nederhouser Community Hall at Olander Park  
**Harroun Community Park** is on Main Street, across from St. Joseph Parish  
**Stranahan Arboretum** is at 4131 Tantara Drive, just east of Camp Miakonda  
**Sylvan Prairie Park** is at 8501 Brint Road, with access to the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail  
**Sylvania Historical Village** is at 5717 Main Street

### **Family Fossil Fest**

**Sunday, August 23, 3 p.m.**

*Fossil Park*

What's old and gray and can be found at Fossil Park? Not Mrs. G! No, Silly – it's a Devonian Fossil! You're Gonna Dig It!

### **Anchors Away!**

**Sunday, August 23, 6 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 29, 6 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop*

Let the wind-blown current take you across Lake O; just go with the flow!

### **Adults: 14 & Up**

#### **Sunday Scrap**

**Sundays; July 12 & 26; August 9 & 23, 1 to 6 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center*

Relax on a Sunday afternoon and work on your scrapbooking projects. Bring your supplies, use the big tables in the Gorman Room, and make new friends.

#### **Create Your Own Garden Stone**

**Tuesday, August 4, 6 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop*

TOPS provides the material to make the stone and the opportunity to decorate it. Bring your own accents or use those provided for a \$5 material fee.

### **Grandparent & Grandchild**

#### **Fossil Hunt**

**Saturday, July 18, 11 a.m.**

*Fossil Park*

Calling all experts! Get down "Under the Sea" to reveal the mystery of millions of years of fossil formation.

#### **Picnic in the Park**

**Saturday, August 1, Noon**

*Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter*

Work with your young ones to prepare lunch over the grill. Afterwards, walk off those calories!

### **Lunch & Learn**

#### **Fred Folger's Caravan Travels**

**Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

*Maumee, Ohio*

Meet at the Walcott House to visit Locks #6 off River Road with Lock #5 buried underneath, then venture to Side Cut Metropark to get a close look at Locks 2 through 4, and peer through the trees at Lock #1. Pack your own picnic lunch.

"Westward Ho!"

**Saturday, August 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Travel the meandering Maumee River to revisit the transportation revolution that was the Miami & Erie Canal and the "Iron Horse!" View the historic bridge, Napoleon's unique red sandstone church, Johnny Appleseed's monument, the site of Fort Defiance, and the locks at Junction, Ohio. Pack your own picnic lunch to enjoy at the Independence Dam.

### **Sylvania Senior Center & TOPS Co-op**

#### **Walk & Talk About Sylvania**

Join Mrs. G. in "Getting to Know All About. . ." as we explore Sylvania highlights. Pack a sack snack. Make reservations with Mrs. G. at 419-882-8313, extension #30.

**Wednesday, July 1, 6 p.m.**

*Southview Oak Savanna*

**Wednesday, July 15, 6 p.m.**

*Fossil Park*

#### **Anglers, Drop Your Lines!**

**Friday, July 31, 9 a.m.**

*Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop*

Enjoy Lake Olander with a rowboat and bait compliments of TOPS. A prize goes to the participant with the best Fish Tale. Reservations limited.

#### **Picnic & Potluck**

**Wednesday, August 26, 6 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Shelter #1*

Mrs. G. has an old-fashioned gathering planned just for you. Bring a dish to share and TOPS takes care of the rest.

Reservations limited.

### **Community Events**

#### **Greenway Gab**

**Sunday, July 5, 3 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 1, 3 p.m.**

*Sylvan Prairie Park front parking lot*

Check in with Mrs. G. for pointers of what to see along the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail.

#### **Nature's Nursery Open House**

**Sunday, July 12, 2 p.m.**

*11611 Reed Road, Whitehouse*

The Blue Creek Conservation Area is the new home of Nature's Nursery. Visit the wetlands, glacial grooves, crinoid fossil-filled stone wall, historic farmhouse, limestone barn, and receive a behind-the-scenes tour of the animal rehabilitation center.

#### **Volunteer Adventures**

**Mondays, July 13 & 27; August 10, 9 a.m. to Noon**

*Olander Park, Maintenance Building*

Looking for a globally-conscience activity this summer? Join TOPS in restoring oak openings habitat in Sylvania. Wear long pants and bring gloves if you have them. All necessary tools provided by TOPS but volunteers will need their own transportation to worksite behind Southview High School.

#### **Star Party**

**Friday, July 31, 9 to 11 p.m.**

**Friday, August 28, 8 to 10 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Shelter # 1*

Join the Toledo Area Astronomers for two nights of stargazing. Look at the heavens through their telescopes or bring your own if you have one. Cancelled if cloudy.

#### **Adopt A Road**

**Saturday, August 15, 10 a.m.**

*Olander Park, Boat & Bait Shop*

Volunteers assist TOPS staff in a community clean-up along Sylvania Avenue from King to Mitchaw Roads. Dress to work and bring your appetite, with food compliments of Barry Bagel's Place.

#### **Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts Swimming Badge**

**Sunday, August 2, 3:30 p.m.**

*Olander Park, Swim & Beach Facility*

TOPS certified lifeguards implement and supervise requirements to earn your badge.

**"To be entirely at leisure for one day  
is to be immortal!"**

**-Chinese proverb**

# on the trail

In early January, I attended the annual Ohio Parks & Recreation Association Conference in Columbus. At the Directors Forum, one of our first orders of business was to congratulate our counterparts throughout the state for their levy victories in the November 2008 election. To the surprise of all, not only did every park levy on the November ballot win, but each agency did so by comfortable margins. In going around the room, we realized it was more than two years since a parks and recreation levy represented by any of the districts there that day failed.

Naturally, the conversation turned to the local and national economy, as well as people's inherent dislike of taxes, especially in tough times. With these items in mind, the thought was we should be discussing a string of park levy failures rather than successes when just the opposite scenario is true. That prompted the next question: "Why?"

Each park district offers outstanding facilities with great family and community events in safe and natural settings, but we've always had those amenities. No matter what viewpoint we addressed, the discussion always came back to the economy and we finally concluded that, dire as it is, it is most likely the reason for the levy victories.

With unemployment on the rise and gas, energy, and food costs high, more people than ever are recreating close to home and will likely do so for the foreseeable future. If you can't afford airline tickets, hotels, gasoline to travel the county, or even that movie or Cedar Point ticket, your local parks and recreation facilities take on greater importance.

But how much can you really do at a community park system like TOPS, either free or for just a few dollars? How about swimming at an all-natural sand beach and lakefront facility, or digging for 375-million-year-old Devonian Era fossils at one of the two prime locations anywhere on the planet.

Want to experience one of the world's "Last Great Places" as described by The Nature Conservancy – then visit the Sylvania Oak Savanna remnant just south of Sylvania Southview High School, adjacent to the University/Park Bicycle Trail.

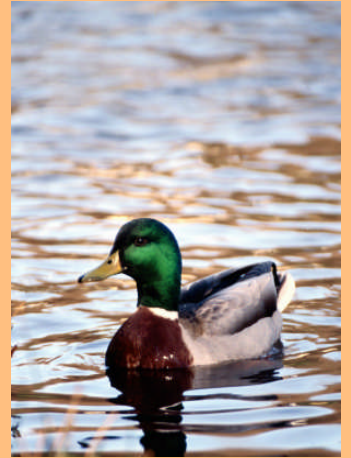
Exercise more up your alley? Then walk, run, or bike the 1.1-mile oval at Olander Park, or try out Northwest Ohio's newest and most unique track with the twisting and turning 5.5-mile Quarry Ridge Bike Trail.

Don't forget fishing and nature programs and outdoor concerts. Arts-&-crafts and playgrounds and volleyball. History events to grandparent programs to field trips to . . . well, you get the idea! All these activities are free and that is always a popular price!

But are these programs and activities really free? The average home in the Sylvania School District, the same jurisdiction as TOPS, is worth \$177,000. Based on that value, our typical homeowner pays less than \$24 a year for all the benefits provided by the park system. That's roughly the same amount a family of five spends on one trip to McDonalds.

Even if you never visit TOPS parks or enjoy its events, the park system is an economic benefit. The National Realtors Association states an above-average to excellent park system adds approximately 10 percent to the value of your home. In this economic downturn, it is even more important to support your local parks and recreation organizations, whether it's for education, recreation, conservation, family events, or to maintain the highest value of your most important financial asset – your house!

Spend part of your summer vacation – or make each day a summer vacation all its own – at The Olander Park System. We look forward to seeing and serving you often this year!



"If you're losing your leisure, look out! You may be losing your soul."

-Logan Pearsall Smith



# summer fun

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## Water, Water Everywhere!

When you have a 28-acre lake as the heart of your primary parks and recreation destination, make full advantage of this water resource in the fabulous Summer months!

Take a dip in the warm water of Lake Olander at the Swim & Beach Facility. It is open daily through Wednesday, August 26, then August 29 & 30, and the Labor Day holiday weekend. Daily hours are Noon to 7 p.m.; beginning Monday, August 10, the swim & beach facility closes at 6 p.m. Admission is \$2 for TOPS residents and \$4 for all others, with kids 2 & under admitted free.

If you are more of an on-top-of-the-water rather than in-the-water person, TOPS still has you covered for Summer fun! Enjoy a paddleboat and rowboat rental daily through Sunday, August 30, then on the Labor Day holiday weekend. The Bait & Boat Shop will remain open September weekends as business and the weather permits.

Paddleboats seat up to 3 people and rent \$3 per half-hour; rowboats seat up to 4 and cost \$3 per hour. All rentals require a \$5 deposit. Fishing enthusiasts can take advantage of the weekday "Fisherman's Special" rowboat rate of \$6 per day excluding Labor Day. July rentals are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with boats off the water by 8, and August and the Labor Day holiday weekend are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with boats off the lake by 7. You must be 16 or older to rent a boat, and 12 or older to ride in one without an adult.

Boat rentals coincide with the Bait Shop hours, which in July are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and August and the Labor Day holiday weekend from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## Listen to the Music!

"Sunset Serenades" concerts on the Nederhouser Community Hall deck overlooking beautiful Lake Olander every other Wednesday evening through August 19 from 7 p.m. to dusk. "Extra Stout" features Irish music on July 8, with the Polish-American Concert Band July 22. Bob Wurst entertains on August 5 and Rusty's Jazz Café Band rounds out the schedule August 19. In inclement weather, concerts move inside the community hall. "Sunset Serenades" are FREE for TOPS residents and \$3 per car for all others. Thanks to The Friends of The Olander Park System for the complimentary ice cream, cookies, and lemonade. TOPS appreciates donations to offset the cost of the concerts.

## Donate a Tree, Remember a Loved One

Donating a tree to TOPS is a great way to create a living memorial to a loved one, celebrate the birth of a new family member, anniversary or other momentous occasion. If you would like to participate in this program, please contact Maintenance Manager Dave Woodcock at 419.882.8313 ext. 27 or [dwoodcock@olanderpark.com](mailto:dwoodcock@olanderpark.com) for more information.

## Fossil Park

Join the thousands who travel to the Sylvania area from around the nation and world to dig for 375-million-year-old Devonian fossils at one of the few parks of its kind in the country. Fossil Park is open weekends only, with Saturday hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Beginning Saturday, September 12, Fossil Park closes at 5 p.m. TOPS prohibits all tools as the fossils are in shale soft enough to break with bare hands. All you need is a brush for cleaning and something in which to store your "buried treasures!"

FOSSIL PARK IS CLOSED JULY 4 & 5 FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE SYLVANIA AREA FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

## Test Your Limits!

The 29th annual Sylvania Triathlon is Sunday, August 9, with various competition levels for serious and casual participants. The Olympic Triathlon is a one-mile swim, 26-mile bike, and 6.2-mile run. Newcomers generally prefer the shorter Sprint distance of a 400-yard swim, 13-mile bike, and 3.1-mile run. If water is not your best option, the Duathlon has a run-bike-run format. If you specialize in one or two of the sports, then track down a couple of friends for the Team Event. For information or to register, contact race directors Jim and Joyce Donaldson at 419-829-2398 or at [eliteendeavors.com](http://eliteendeavors.com).

## Kids Competition

The Super Kids Triathlon is Saturday, August 8. Participants ages 7 to 10 swim 100 yards, bicycle 3.1 miles, and run 0.6-mile. Ages 11 to 14 swim 200 yards, bike 6.2 miles, and run 1.2-miles. There are age group prizes for boys and girls. To register, see the Sylvania Triathlon information.

## Keep Counting Laps

The "Olander 250" Walking Program continues through Saturday, October 31. Medical science proves in one study after another that walking is beneficial to almost every aspect of life and good health. People who walk briskly just 1 hour a day 3 or 4 times a week lower their risk of Alzheimer's by almost 90% and most cancers by roughly 75%. It is low-stress on your bones, knees, and ankles, and is a great way to socialize. "Olander 250" logs are in the Callahan Administrative Office in Olander Park or from the information box outside the Nederhouser Community Hall main entrance.



# TOPS Quick View

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## Olander Park

**July:** 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**August through Labor Day:** 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## Fossil Park

Weekends only through Sunday, October 18

Free admission

Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fossil Park closes beginning September 12 at 5 p.m.

## Olander Park Swim & Beach Facility

Open daily through August 26, then August 29 & 30 and the Labor Day Weekend:

Noon to 7 p.m. Closes beginning Monday, August 10, at 6 p.m.

\$2 for TOPS residents; all others \$4. Kids 2 & under free

## “Sunset Serenades” concert series

**July 8:** “Extra Stout”

**July 22:** Polish-American Concert Band

**August 5:** Bob Wurst

**August 19:** Rusty’s Jazz Café Band

7 p.m. to dusk. FREE for TOPS residents, all others \$3 per car entry fee.

## One Day Summer Camps

2 to 5-year-olds: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

6 to 11-year-olds: Noon to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 1

Thursday, July 9

Monday, July 13

Friday, July 24

Olander Park, Shelter #1

Parent attendance is optional.

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Olander Park, Nederhouser Community Hall

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\$18 for Nature’s Nursery members; \$20 non-members; no charge

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419-877-0060.

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Devilbiss Boy Scout Camp, Camp Miakonda

Cabin rental: \$10 per person.

## Splish-Splash! Picnic & Boat Blast!

Sunday, August 30, 4 p.m.

Olander Park, Bait & Boat Shop

FREE but Limited Reservations.