

feature programs



The Pathfinder On-Line

The Olander Park System (TOPS) now “publishes” every other edition of its events newsletter, *The Pathfinder*, on-line at olanderpark.com. If you want an email notice when TOPS posts a new *Pathfinder*, send your email to 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 sheet. Remain connected to TOPS through *The Paperless Pathfinder* at olanderpark.com!

Float Your Boat Safely Boating Safety Programs!

Adults 14 & up

Saturday, May 16 or June 20, Noon

Children ages 7 to 13

Sunday May 17 or June 21, Noon

*Olander Park, Gorman Nature
Education Center*

15 maximum per class; registration required

Join us for an afternoon of boating fun. Basic boating safety will be covered on land, then hop into a vessel and get some on-the-water training. Be prepared to have fun and wear shoes you can get wet! Funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Are you interested in learning how to sail? Stephanie of TOPS Bait & Boat staff is a certified instructor with boats available. If you are interested, email sbarr@olanderpark.com.

Colonial Tea Time

Saturday, June 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sylvania Historical Village

Registration: 25 people

Tea is serious business for an “American Girl” like Felicity. Spend midday at the Sylvania Historical Village as we learn what was expected of a girl Felicity’s age at the turn of the 18th Century. Try your hand at penmanship, fabric stenciling, and early American children’s games while enjoying a scrumptious tea. Children 7 to 12 with adult guardians; \$3 per person registration fee.

Dads Celebrate with Lads & Lassies

Wonders of Woodworking

Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Sylvania Historical Village

Replica Barn

Bring your own hand tools to complete a pre-made kit designed by the Sylvania Senior Center’s woodworkers. Light refreshments.

Bike Rodeo

Sunday, June 28, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sylvan Prairie Park, Back Parking Lot

SAFE KIDS COALITION & TOPS host the 4th annual Bike Rodeo for children age 5 to 11. Newcomers to bicycling peddle through an obstacle course as trained volunteers offer safety tips. Kids with biking experience will test their skills on the challenge course. Bicycle helmets required; helmets available at \$8 each.

“A true conservationist is someone who knows the world is not given by our parents but borrowed from our children.”

—Audubon

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 e-mail at 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

2 & 3 Year Olds With Adult Guardians

Toddle Waddle

Toddle: "Make 'n Take" Surprise!

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

Mom will treasure this hand-made gift for Mothers Day.

Toddle: Fishy-Wishy!

Wednesday, May 13, 10 a.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

Make a dowel pole rod and fish the day away.

Toddle: Travelin' Time!

Tuesday, May 19, 10 a.m.

Camp Miakonda

Walk upon the hallowed ground of the Native Americans.

Toddle: Tell Us a Tale!

Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m.

Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter

Mrs. G. shares a story, snack, stroll, and surprise.

Toddle: Play Date!

Tuesday, June 9, 10 a.m.

Saint James Woods Park

Pack a picnic, then explore the dunes and enjoy the playground at this neighborhood park.

Toddle: Wander & Wonder!

Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m.

Pacesetter Park

Travel the quarter-mile trail to see Nature in full bloom.

Toddle: Travelin' Time!

Thursday, June 25, 10 a.m.

577 Foundation, Perrysburg

Visit yesteryear with ECO-Discovery's Maureen Schell to experience a "day of old" in a 1840s log home. Tour the grounds for things a toddler wants to see. Bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy at Side Cut Metropark.

Toddle: Have a Beach Ball!

Monday, June 29, 10 a.m.

Olander Park Swim & Beach Facility

Dig in the sand, wade in the water, and splash away!

2 to 11 Year Olds with Adult Guardians

Combos: Calling All Kids

A-Fossilin' We Will Go!

Wednesday, May 6, 4 p.m.

Fossil Park

Play the Fossil-O game for your age level as you unearth buried treasure.

Home School Special "Whatever the Weather"

Monday, May 18, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

Attending age groups determine the program focus.

Tie Die a T-Shirt

Monday, June 15, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16, 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Olander Park, Shelter #1

Bring a pre-washed T-shirt – no fabric softener – to create a uniquely colorful design.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, June 17, 1 p.m.

Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter

Enjoy munching on a "Walking Taco" before venturing onto the floodplain.

Road Tripping

Thursday, June 25, 1 p.m.

577 Foundation, Perrysburg

Spend the afternoon with ECO-Discovery's Maureen Schell in a log home as you experience a "day of old," tour the grounds with a guide, and go on a nature hunt with Mrs. G. Pack your own picnic lunch to enjoy at Side Cut Metropark at Noon, prior to the 577 Foundation.

3 to 6 Year Olds With Adult Guardians

Steppin' into Nature

Delight in the miracles that abound all around.

Swamp Forest Finds

Monday, May 11, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Secor Metropark

Dune Discoveries

Thursday, June 4, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Southview Oak Savanna

A-Fossilin' We Will Go!

Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Fossil Park

Search for buried treasure and be challenged by Fossil-O!

Book Nook

Sylvania's children's librarian, Mary Leugers, teams with TOPS to entertain.

"Gone Fishing"

Wednesday, May 13, 1 p.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

Chalk Talk

Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Harroun Community Park, Landseadel Shelter

Have a plan to make your chalk "talk" on the walk!

K to 5th Grade

Creation Station

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, & 28;

June 4, 11, & 25, 4 p.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

20 registrants

Encourage your budding artist! Join us for an hour of artistic adventure presented with the Sylvania Community Arts Commission.

Family Prime Time

Tea Time for Mother's Day

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.

Sylvania Historical Village

Registration required, 30 people

At the 5th annual Ladies Tea make a Swarovski crystal birth stone bracelet with artist Cathi Lannen. Savor homemade delicacies, sip teas fit for a Queen, and receive a complimentary 5x7 snapshot. \$10 per bracelet fee.

Fossil "Back to the Past"

Sunday, May 17, 3 to 5 p.m.

Fossil Park

"Can you dig it?" Sift through shale with your bare hands and unearth 375-million-year-old Devonian Fossils you get to keep!

Swim, Splash, 'n Sun Fun

Friday, June 12, 5 p.m.

Olander Park Swim & Beach Facility

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

Tie Die Matching Family T-Shirts

Sunday, June 14, 2 to 5 p.m.

Olander Park

Stop by between 2 and 5 and earn bragging rights in your family by decorating shirts in a myriad of color. Bring your own pre-washed T-shirts.

Boats All Afloat

Friday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.

Olander Park Boat & Bait Shop

Paddle or "Row, Row, Row" a boat FREE, compliments of TOPS.

Venture into the Night

Saturday, June 27, 7 p.m.

Sylvan Prairie Park

Use all your senses to explore the paved trail as the sun sets in the west.



Adults: Age 14 & Up

Sunday Scrap

Sunday, May 3, 1 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 21, 1 to 6 p.m.

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

Herbs with Jamie K

Thursday May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center
Join Jamie Kochensparger, Education Specialist for Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District and herbalist extraordinaire, for an evening of herbal enjoyment. Get your garden started, learn different uses, and enjoy herbalistic snacks. \$10 material fee.

Volunteer Ventures

Sunday, May 10, 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 16, 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 24, 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 7, 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 21, 9 a.m.

Olander Park Maintenance Building
TOPS is starting its restoration season. Join us to improve the habitats of our parks. Work for 3 hours, wear long pants and closed toed shoes, and bring gloves. TOPS provides water and snacks.

Living Green: Rain Barrel Workshop

Sunday, May 17, 1 p.m.

Olander Park Maintenance Building
25 registrants

Rain, while occasionally a nuisance, helps our gardens and grass grow. Build a rain barrel for your home to collect water for your plants and save money on your utility bill while conserving the Earth's natural resources. \$10 material fee per barrel.

Wreath Make 'n Take

Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m.

Olander Park Bait & Boat Shop

Artisan Mona Macksey of the Toledo Botanical Gardens provides all materials to create a one-of-a-kind warm weather adornment. \$15 program fee to Ms. Macksey.

Grandparent & Grandchild

Sip On a Float & Float In a Boat

Saturday, June 6, 4 p.m.

Olander Park Bait & Boat Shop

Make a Root Beer float then enjoy a complimentary paddle- or rowboat on Lake Olander.

Lunch & Learn

Field Trippin' with Fred

Woodlawn Cemetery

Saturday, May 16, Noon

Historian Fred Folger guides you on a walk "Back in Time" to Toledo's past. Become familiar with special trees common to Northwest Ohio with TOPS Mrs. G.



Grand Rapids Gad-a-Bout

Saturday, June 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fred Folger takes you "Back in Time" by highlighting TOPS Transportation Series with a visit to where the Miami & Erie Canal paralleled the Maumee River. Join in for all or part of the day including a canal boat ride and nature hike to the Providence Dam.

Sylvania Senior Center & TOPS Co-op Events

Walk 'n Talk About Sylvania

Join Mrs. G. in "Getting to Know All About..." as we explore different venues in Sylvania. All programs begin at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6, Olander Park

Wednesday, May 20, Sylvania Historical Village

Wednesday, June 3, Harroun Park

Wednesday, June 17, Sylvan Prairie Park

Astronomy Programs

Astronomy Day

Saturday, May 2, 2 to 4 p.m.; 8 to 11 p.m.

Olander Park, Shelter #1

2009 is the 400th anniversary of the first use of the telescope in Astronomy, making this the International Year of Astronomy. Celebrate with the Toledo Astronomical Association, starting with daytime activities including solar viewing. The TAA will then have telescopes set up for evening stargazing, weather permitting. The May sky features a first-quarter moon and Saturn.

Star Party

Friday, May 29 & June 26, 9 to 11 p.m.

Sylvan Prairie Park, Back Parking Lot

All ages are welcome to view the night sky with telescopes set up by the Toledo Astronomical Association. Bring your own binoculars, telescope if you have one, and questions!

Community Events

Overnight at Camp Miakonda

Friday, May 15, 6 p.m. to

Saturday, May 16, 11 a.m.

Devilbiss Scout Camp, Camp Miakonda

"Semi-Camp Out" right here in the middle of the City of Sylvania! Outdoor activities dictated by the weather. Start a fire from scratch and find your way with a compass. \$10 per person; an optional \$4 per person for Miakonda's hot breakfast.

Geocache

Accept the challenge; perfect for all ages as well as individuals or groups.

Saturday, May 23, 3 p.m., Fossil Park

Sunday, June 7, 2 p.m., Sylvan Prairie Park

Greenway Gab 'n Go-About

Sunday, May 24, 3 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 3 to 5 p.m.

Sylvan Prairie Park

Chat with Mrs. G. to learn about the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail and play the "Trail-0" challenge along the route.

TEAM Sylvania

Wednesday, May 27, 5 to 7 p.m.

Sylvania Historical Village, Replica Barn

The Sylvania Historical Society hosts the 3rd TEAM Sylvania meeting where area agencies and residents take an active role in increasing and promoting events by exchanging services in creative ways. Light refreshments; reservations required.

Adopt-a-Road

Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m.

Olander Park Bait & Boat Shop

Volunteers assist TOPS staff in our 2nd community clean-up along Sylvania Avenue from King to Mitchaw Roads. Dress to work and bring an appetite for bagels compliments of Barry Bagel's Place.

Kites in Flight Festival

Sunday, May 31, 4 to 6 p.m.

Pacesetter Park

Sweet Shalom Sassy Sky-Soarers Ethan & Krissy Kruse dazzle you with their kite expertise. Make a tiny tissue kite to test-flight, frost a kite sugar-cookie, and sip iced tea. Bring your own lawn chair and optional kite to fly. When you register, pre-order a "Frustrationless Flier Kite" to decorate and fly for \$4. Tickets: \$2 adults & \$1 children.

Celebrate With Camp Miakonda: "Your Family Joins In"

Thursday, June 4, 6 p.m.

Devilbiss Scout Camp, Camp Miakonda

If you want to attend the Annual Scout Recognition program, Mrs. G. will be your guide. Join in on the free hotdog cookout or register for the formal dinner at \$15 per person.

Welcome All Scouts

Orienteering Challenge

Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m. & Noon

Olander Park, Gorman Nature Education Center

Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts of all ages can attend as individuals or a group. Read and practice with a compass, then discover "Where In The World Is Mrs. G.?"



It's hard to believe I am beginning my 12th year as director of The Olander Park System. For more than a decade now, whether in formal presentations or informal conversations, I like to say the park system is simply a reflection of the Sylvania area.

When I joined TOPS in the late 20th century, the economy was booming, most everyone had a job, 9/11 was just another date on the calendar, property values shot through the roof, new neighborhoods sprang up seemingly overnight, and our community grew by roughly 1,000 residents each and every year - remember when people used to wonder where the school district would construct Westview High School one day?!

The park system rode that wave. TOPS had been just Olander and Whetstone Parks since 1963, but with Hanson Aggregates Midwest, Inc., and the City of Sylvania, we opened Fossil Park in Fall 2001. That was just the beginning! With the help of your property tax dollars, TOPS leveraged those moneys into more than \$3 million additional outside funds and land donations for the acquisitions of Sylvan Prairie Park, the construction of the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail, the purchase of the Herr Road location, entry roads and parking lots at Sylvan Prairie, the restoration of the Oak Savanna behind Sylvania Southview with the Sylvania School District, and improvements to maintain the high quality and standards of Olander and Whetstone.

Today, however, the economy is sagging, jobs are at a premium, the world is a different place, property values are down, new construction is stagnant, and the Sylvania area population has been flat for several years. No one asks about Westview anymore.

Your park system faces the same economic reality as our homeowners - declining property values that impact the bottom line of everything we do. 2009 is a Lucas County triennial property reevaluation year and the new figure will decrease TOPS funding. The park system estimates it will receive \$150,000 less each year when the new valuations are in place.

TOPS prepared for this economic downturn over a year ago. A reorganization in late 2007 reduced its full-time staff from 8 to 4, cutting payroll, health care costs, and related expenses by more than \$115,000

annually. We reduced *The Pathfinder* hard-copy issues from 6 to 3, saving over \$20,000 in printing and mailing costs. TOPS will reduce expenditures an additional \$165,000 each year when it pays off its seven-year Sylvan Prairie Park mortgage in 2010.

Like thousands of our constituents, TOPS will further tighten its belt. After a decade of almost constant growth, the completion of the Fossil Park entry road and solar-powered restroom this Summer will be the park system's last major new construction project or expansion for the immediate future.

Nature and education programs will continue. There will be Easter Eggs Hunts and Kids Trout Derbies and "Sunset Serenades" concerts and Halloween Hikes. Grass will be cut, the swim facility will be safe with lifeguards on duty, your parks will be clean and natural with security on hand, and the bike trail and walking path will be clear of snow in the winter. Like everyone else, we will better maintain what we have with a clean appearance, fresh paint, and elbow grease.

And we have a promise to keep! When the park system levy passed in 2001, TOPS Commissioners pledged to Sylvania area residents that it would only seek a Renewal for the next 15 years. The park system kept that vow in 2006 and will again in 2011.

One positive I noticed in 2008 is TOPS had high visitation all year long. People enjoyed, either again or for the first time, their local parks. This Summer, with an emphasis on one-tank trips and inexpensive local destinations, come for a swim at the beach, rent a paddleboat and meander on Lake Olander, dig for 375-million-year-old Devonians at Fossil Park, stroll the globally-imperiled Oak Savanna remnant behind Sylvania Southview, and peddle along the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail through Sylvan Prairie and Fossil Parks to Mayberry Square for a pizza or ice cream!

TOPS looks forward to seeing you and your family often this summer!



Gary Madrzykowski
TOPS Director



"Once we considered parks a public expense. Now we know parks are a public investment."

—President Lyndon Baines Johnson



Into The Swim of Things!

Get into the swim of things at the all-natural sand Lake Olander Swim & Beach Facility. Dive into the 2009 season starting on the Memorial Day Weekend of **May 23 to 25**, then the following weekends of **May 30 & 31** and **June 6 & 7**. Plan on taking your daily dip beginning Thursday, **June 11**. The Swim & Beach facility is open daily from Noon to 7 p.m.

Admission for Sylvania School District residents is \$2 per person, with nonresidents \$4 each, and children 2 & under free. Seasonal swim passes are available for \$24 for Sylvania School District residents and \$48 for nonresidents. Each pass has 15 visits, so you pay for 12 and receive another 3 FREE. You may purchase passes at the Callahan Administrative Office in Olander Park or at the Swim & Beach Facility.

Sail the Seas or Drop a Line!

The boating season on beautiful Lake Olander is already underway. If you book passage on a paddleboat, these vessels seat up to 3 people and rent \$3 per half-hour. If you prefer a larger ship, rowboats seat up to 4 people for \$3 per hour. If you're an "Old Salt," say Ahoy to the "Fisherman's Special" – an all-day rowboat for just \$6 weekdays excluding the major summer holidays.

Boat rentals require a valid driver's license and \$5 deposit. You must be 16 or older to rent a boat, and 12 or older to ride in one without an adult. Rentals are from 9 a.m. to one hour prior to the closing of the Boat & Bait Shop.

For those who wish to drop a line in Lake Olander, The Bait & Boat Shop is open weekends only from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. until the **Memorial Day** weekend, then daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. It stocks simple items such as hooks and bobbers, but does not rent or sell poles or fishing licenses. Leaf worms, wax worms, and nightcrawlers are \$1.75 to \$2 per container.

Listen to The Music!

The 12th year of the popular "Sunset Serenades" Concert Series trumpets in the Summer music season! Enjoy a relaxing evening on the Nederhouser Community Hall deck, overlooking beautiful Lake Olander. Concerts are every other Wednesday from **June 10** through **August 19** from 7 p.m. to dusk. "Sunset Serenades" are FREE if you are a Sylvania School District resident, with all others paying the standard \$3 per car Olander

Park entry fee. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, and enjoy light refreshments compliments of Giant Eagle and the Friends of The Olander Park System. In inclement weather, TOPS moves the concerts inside the community hall.

- June 10:** Eddie Boggs
- June 24:** Kerry Patric Clark
- July 8:** Bob Wurst
- July 22:** Polish-American Concert Band
- August 5:** "Extra Stout"
- August 19:** Rusty's Jazz Cafe

You're Gonna Dig It!

Fossil Park reopens for the 2009 season on Saturday, **May 23**. This is one of the few parks of its type in the nation where you can dig for and keep 375-million-year-old Devonian fossils! Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

FOSSIL PARK WILL CLOSE **JULY 4 & 5** AS IT IS THE LAUNCHING SITE FOR THE SYLVANIA AREA FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

TOPS prohibits digging tools as the fossils are in shale soft enough to break with your bare hands. Bring a brush for cleaning and a carton to store your buried treasures; there is water on site for fossil cleaning. TOPS operates Fossil Park in conjunction with Hanson Aggregates Midwest, Inc., and the City of Sylvania.

These Shoes Are Made For Walking!

Science continues to describe walking as The Miracle Cure! Walking briskly 2 miles a day, 4 times a week lowers your risk of most cancers by 70%, Alzheimer's by 80%, and is low stress on your bones and joints while improving your heart, lungs, and stamina.

"Winter 150" Walking Program participants, your final day to reach your goal of walking 150 or more miles is Thursday, **April 30**. Turn in your walking log at the Callahan Administrative Office in Olander Park and receive your award to recognize your accomplishment! Please fill in the "Comments" section to let us know how much weight you lost, what medications you no longer need and how you reduced your blood pressure.

Stay in stride with the "Olander 250" Walking Program by totaling 250 or more miles from Friday, **May 1**, through **Halloween**. Pick up your "250" log from the Callahan Administrative Office or the information box outside the Nederhouser Community Hall main entrance.

"If each American walked one hour a day, the United States would reduce health care costs by \$40 billion annually."

—Brown University Medical Study





The
OLANDER
PARK SYSTEM

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TOPS Quick View

Olander Park

May 1 to 22: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

May 23 through July: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Fossil Park

Weekends only, **May 23 through October 18**

Free admission

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

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

Lake Olander Swim & Beach Facility

Open **Memorial Day Weekend, May 30 & 31**, and **June 6 & 7**, then daily beginning Thursday, **June 11**. Noon to 7 p.m. \$2 for TOPS residents and \$4 nonresidents; kids 2 & under free. Seasonal Swim Passes available!

“Sunset Serenades” concert series

Every other Wednesday from **June 10 to August 19**

June 10: Eddie Boggs; **June 24:** Kerry Patric Clark

Nederhouser Community Hall deck, 7 p.m. to dusk.

FREE for TOPS residents, all others \$3 per car entry fee.



Our Mission

The Olander Park System strives to preserve and enhance the educational, historical, natural, and recreational benefits of the Sylvania region through parklands, family and community events, conservation and preservation techniques, environmentally-friendly practices, and energy-efficient technologies to ensure a high quality of life for all Sylvania area residents.

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