

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 5/29/14

"Recognizing Notable Individuals"

Three notable individuals have recently been recognized with Proclamations issued by the Mayor's office. Here is information about these special people who have improved our Sylvania community with their hard work and creativity.

Sister Jane Mary Sorosiak has been a member of the Sylvania Franciscan Community for over 50 years, entering from Toledo's St. Hedwig Parish in 1956. After teaching at Oregon Cardinal Stritch, Sister Jane Mary joined the Lourdes community as an assistant professor for the Department of Art where she taught for decades until retiring. She now works full time creating custom ceramic murals in Alverno Studio. Sister Jane Mary's acclaimed ceramic and mural works are displayed on the Sylvania campus of the Sisters of St. Francis, around the Sylvania area, and elsewhere across the nation from Ohio to Texas to California. Due to her outstanding accomplishments in ceramic mural artwork, she was recently inducted into the Sylvania Distinguished Artist Hall of Fame.

Ken Katifias worked for the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District for 27 years. During his tenure with the Recreation District, Ken dramatically improved the recreation programs and numerous facilities in Sylvania to the benefit of the entire community and all of Northwest Ohio. During his leadership of the district, the 138 acre Pacesetter Park opened in 1990 and expanded to become the premier outdoor recreation facility in Northwest Ohio including 25 soccer fields, 8 lighted ball diamonds, a 2.25 mile trail and a state of the art playground. In 1994, the Centennial Quarry and Terrace complex was brought under direction of the district, and through Ken's vision and leadership Centennial Terrace was improved and transformed into the premier outdoor concert venue in Northwest Ohio in 2009. We thank Ken Katafias for his tireless efforts in making the Sylvania community a better place to live, play and raise a family.

Mike Tansey started working for the City of Sylvania on April 25, 2006 as the first manager of the City's Information Technology Department, and was paramount in its creation. Mike was involved in the design, implementation and maintenance of the Sylvania Electronic Village, acting as its administrator until the SEV was decommissioned in 2013. Mike worked diligently over the last 8 years, putting in long hours and keeping the City of Sylvania at the forefront of computer technology. He was instrumental in the implementation of cutting edge security equipment to protect our computer network, comprised of data recovery and a state of the art back-up solution, all the while effectively and efficiently serving our residents. Mike developed the first website for the City of Sylvania and was instrumental in the creation of the current website as well as the development of the next website scheduled for launch in the summer of 2014. Mike Tansey recently passed away, and we honor him not only for his contributions made to our City's computer infrastructure, but also for the many relationships that he built with those that work and live in our community.