

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Craig A. Stough 2/29/2024

"Volunteerism Strong in Sylvania"

The message I most often speak about is that Sylvania is a great place to live. The strong spirit of community volunteerism in Sylvania is a major reason why Sylvania is such a wonderful community. Nothing enriches a community more than people willing to give of their time and talents for the good of others in their community.

National Volunteer Week this year is Sunday, April 21st through Saturday, April 27th with a theme of "Every Moment Matters". Although that week is special, volunteers are always hard at work dedicating their free time to our Sylvania community.

The scope of volunteerism in Sylvania is simply amazing. Community volunteers are everywhere - in the schools, at Flower Hospital, on government committees, on charitable boards, on church committees, in community recreation, in youth organizations, in community institutions and service organizations, and many more.

One of the responsibilities of the Mayor is to help find and encourage capable people to fill the many volunteer boards of the City of Sylvania, and Sylvania is blessed with many talented and willing residents. Whether for the Civil Service Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Appeals Board, Tam-O'Shanter, Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District, Sylvania Recreation Corporation or Sister City Commission, volunteers always step forward to do a terrific job.

Of particular note in the last few years are the many volunteers working to strengthen and grow our downtown. Whether working with the Sylvania Heritage Village, the Arts Commission, the Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce or the Red Bird Arts District, the results have been dramatic. New events and activities are adding vitality and quality of life to our community.

And those volunteers are just a small fraction of the volunteerism in our community. There is Sylvania Area Family Services, Sylvania Community Services, the Sylvania Community Improvement Corporation, Lourdes College, Flower Hospital, the Olander Park System, the Senior Center, the Sylvania Community Action Team and the Ability Center. There is Sylvania Rotary and Sylvania Lions Club championing community projects. And the Friends of the Lathrop House Committee continues to work to restore that historic home.

The many churches and religious organizations in Sylvania also have numerous volunteer groups serving our community. Our high schools have student volunteer organizations. And think of all the school board committees, parent clubs, neighborhood organizations, sports coaches, scout leaders, tutors and so many more. The list could go on and on.

The bottom line is Sylvania is blessed with thousands of volunteers, serving enthusiastically and effectively to make our community a better place. Many go unnamed and most unrecognized, but we know you are there and we thank you for all you do. Without you, Sylvania wouldn't be the great place to live that you make it for the rest of us. Thank you and Happy National Volunteers Week!