

FROG TALK

valleycity.org



VALLEY CITY COMMUNITY GROUP

SUMMER 2026

Welcome to the Summer edition of our Frog Talk newsletter. Here's what we've been up to lately and some news you may have missed.

Barb & Rod Knight Citizenship Award Scholarship

Please join us in congratulating two outstanding Buckeye High School seniors, Turner Dolata and Claire Miller, who are recipients of this year's Barb and Rod Knight Citizenship Award Scholarship. The \$2,000 scholarship is presented annually by the Valley City Community Group and funded through proceeds from Valley City festivals and events. It is awarded to the student who best exemplifies the ideal Buckeye student—one who demonstrates academic excellence while balancing school activities, helping others, and contributing to community projects.



TURNER DOLATA

A dedicated community volunteer, Turner actively supports the Valley City Frog Jump, Buckeye Youth Football, and Unified Champions, a sports league serving students with disabilities. Throughout his four years at Buckeye, he has shown leadership both on and off the field as a leader in football and basketball. Committed to giving back, Turner consistently volunteers his time to support others and strengthen local programs. Following graduation, he plans to pursue degrees in Construction Management and Business Management at a college yet to be selected.



CLAIRE MILLER

A committed student leader and community volunteer, Claire has been an active participant in Buckeye Volleyball and a member of the varsity program for three years, while also volunteering and coaching youth volleyball camps. She serves as president of the Buckeye Student Visionary Program's Student Advisory Panel, where she has helped design a new school building and worked to improve the overall environment for current students. Claire has also participated in the Valley City Frog Jump, sharing the role of Mayor Froggington. Following graduation, she will attend the University of South Carolina to major in Civil Engineering.

VCCG directors surprised the recipients at their homes on April 15, 2026, where they were presented with awards recognizing their achievement. Their names will also be added to the Buckeye Academic Showcase. The formal award presentation of the check took place April 23, 2026, during the Buckeye "Night of Excellence" ceremony at Grace Baptist Church in Brunswick.

Frog Sculpture coming to Mill Stream Park

Something **BIG** is hopping into Valley City this summer! In 1969, Valley City resident Jay Reynolds — well known for championing frog-jumping contests and representing the community on a national stage — was seriously injured in a traffic accident. To lift his spirits, a group of friends surprised him with a unique tribute: a nearly one-ton concrete frog dubbed "His Frogship." Constructed from cement,

metal, and plywood, the oversized frog was placed in his yard on Abbeyville Road with the help of a truck and hoist, generously provided by Mack Industries to welcome Jay home from the hospital.

The gift celebrated Reynolds' role as "Mr. Frogman" and his lasting impact on Valley City's frog-jumping tradition. Over time, the frog became both a humorous and meaningful local landmark. As the years passed, however, weather and age took their toll, inspiring the Valley City Community Group to create something new to honor this cherished piece of history.

Now, as we celebrate both America's 250th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of the Valley City Community Group, a new public art landmark is coming to Mill Stream Park. Designed by local artist Mike Kortan and fabricated by Architectural Fiberglass, this long-awaited frog sculpture honors Liverpool Township's past, while creating a welcoming gathering place for residents and visitors to enjoy, photograph, and connect with a cherished part of Valley City's history.

Standing approximately 6 feet tall, the frog will be prominently displayed at the entrance to Mill Stream Park in an artificial pond surrounded by boulders.

Special thanks to the Robin & Cary Smith Family, Valley City Supply, Mack Industries, Lavelle & Sons, Liverpool Township, and all those who purchased boulders to surround the pond. Their generous contributions have made this project possible.

The sculpture dedication is planned for July 4 in Mill Stream Park at the end of the morning Independence Day parade.





Upcoming Events in Valley City

We are gearing up for a fun summer festival season. Join us for our Independence Day celebrations and for our Frog Jump Festival, which is now in its 65th year of providing summertime family entertainment for all ages. Later this summer, our Valley City Fire Association hosts its annual Street Fair, which takes place Aug 14-16 in downtown Valley City.

Details for all our festivals and events can be found on our website valleycity.org



Liverpool Township
Historical Society

JULY 4TH



VALLEY CITY
COMMUNITY GROUP

INDEPENDENCE DAY

AMERICA 250 CELEBRATIONS

9:30 - 11 AM

DEPOT MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

10:00 AM

PARADE LINE UP

- Marching units at the Depot - 6615 Center Rd.
- Cars (Classic & Antique) behind Valley City Medicine, 6605 Center Rd.
- Bikes & Floats - Emanuel Church, 6656 Center Rd.

11:00 AM

PARADE START & ROUTE

- Starts at Depot
- West on Rt 303
- North on West River
- East on School Street
- North on Maple Street
- Mill Stream Park - 1200 Maple St

11:45 AM

11:45 AM

FROG SCULPTURE DEDICATION - Mill Stream Park

CAR SHOW - Antique and Classic Car Show & Judging in Mill Stream Park

AMERICA 250 CEREMONY - Ladies of the G.A.R. Museum, 6705 Center Rd.

5:30-9:30 PM

ENTERTAINMENT - DJ Music in Mill Stream Park Pavilion

DUSK

FIREWORKS!! - Mill Stream Park



FOOD AVAILABLE IN THE PARK AFTER THE PARADE AND IN THE EVENING BEFORE THE
FIREWORKS - GRILLED ITEMS ALONG WITH KONA ICE & FEELIN' GOOD ICE CREAM TRUCKS

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS





MILL STREAM PARK
1200 MAPLE ST
VALLEY CITY OH

SUNDAY - JULY 19, 2026

9:30 AM

- Registration open at the Amy's Arbors Registration Tent near the Frog Jump Ring
- Hoppin' Retail Shoppe open with Frogified Gifts & Clothing
- Amphibian School opens

10:15 AM

- Opening Ceremony at 3D Metals Jump Ring

10:30 AM

- **FROG JUMPING BEGINS!**



ONLINE JUMP REGISTRATION -
registration.valleycity.org/
Open June 15 - July 15 (or when sold out)

10:30 AM

- Beer & Wine Gardens open at Brew Kettle & Valley City Supply tents
- Coppertop Golf Food Court with Chicken, Ribs, Burgers, Sausage, Ice Cream
- Food Trucks
- Mack Concrete Kids Zone open

12—5 PM

- Entertainment at Pavilion

5—6 PM

- Festival closes, Trophies presented



Street Fair August 14 - 16

The Street Fair schedule is not available at this time. Please follow The [Valley City Fire Association](#) on Facebook for updates.