

By Scott Cottos scottcottos@reviewtimes.com

FOSTORIA — Although it remains a secret to some, Fostoria's Glass Heritage Gallery has begun its 30th season of displaying a wide variety of glass items produced in the city in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"We want to be here as long as Fostoria is," said Bill King, president of the Fostoria, Ohio Glass Association, a nonprofit which operates the museum at 109 N. Main St. "It's not only about the glass, but about the history and the community."

The gallery was closed for the winter, but it is now open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; and



from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

Somehow, the awninged building has remained off the radar of some local citizens while continuing to draw the interest of a number of out-of-towners.

"A lot of people from town say they still don't know about us, and I don't understand that," said King, who noted that some type of anniversary celebration is likely in 2022. "We go to a glass show — or had been going until last year (due to the coronavirus pandemic) — for 10 years in Pennsylvania to set up just to promote tourism in Fostoria. We have a membership — they're on the East Coast, West Coast and everyplace in between."

King said the membership numbers more than 200.

"It was a lot bigger in the '90s when we first started," he said. "There was a lot of local enthusiasm. But some of those, unfortunately, passed away or decided not to resupport. But we get a lot of support from some local corporations.

Continued on Page 3



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John 3:16

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Left: Bill King, president of the Fostoria Glass Association. Photo by Scott Cottos, Review Times. Other photos provided from Fostoria Glass Association Facebook page.

Continued from Page 1
We've been blessed by grants to buy this building, to resurface the front. We had a basement water problem a few years ago. We made a plea to a lot of our members and they came forth with some funds to help, and then we got a grant from the Greater (Fostoria) Community Foundation. Those kinds of things help.

"We (the glass association) own the building now, so we're responsible for maintaining it. And we want to maintain it so it'll be here as long as Fostoria's here. The Fostoria, Ohio,



Glass Association operates this, the Glass Heritage Gallery. It's called 'Glass Heritage' because this is more than glass made here. This is the heritage of a lot of local residents."

According to the glass association's website, fostoriaglass.com., 13 different glass companies operated in Fostoria between 1887 and 1920. The earliest plants were drawn to the city because of the large amounts of natural gas that had been discovered in the area and the five railroads that ran through, the website says. The museum displays items from 10 companies that were not involved in manufacturing plate glass.

Among the firms represented are the Fostoria Glass Co., which opened in 1887 before moving to Moundsville, West Virginia, which now has a Fostoria Glass museum of its own. The



Consolidated Lamp and Glass Co., which began as the Fostoria Shade and Lamp Co., is widely praised for its colorful glass.

King said most of the glassware — lamps, salt and pepper shakers, vases and other items — is on loan from collectors.

"We started in 1992 with very few items, really, on display, and we've grown to over 1,300 items that we're pretty confident were made here in Fostoria by these companies," he said. "We're always trying to find new research items and new items to display. It's been hard because we have so many now, and it's 100 years-plus that they're all (in age) and a lot of people find these and, unfortunately, just toss them because they're in a hurry and they're in a different state from when their parents passed away or they want to liquidate and they just get rid of it. You may find some of this in Goodwill or find it in antique shops or garage sales. You never know where you'll find it."

King said a current challenge is to get young people interested in glass to continue the tradition in town, as many of those with memberships are in their golden years.



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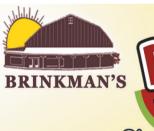
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Residents have access to skills classes on budgeting, parenting, cooking, and self-care from community partners.

Professional case management is an important component of the shelter program, guiding residents as they take the next right step.

84% of residents who successfully exit the program are stably housed one year later.

What do the residents say? When residents transition out of the shelter, they complete an exit survey. Here are some thoughts they shared.

What goals did you accomplish while at Hope House?

"I got a job and an apartment, got connected to other resources and found the support I needed for my journey."

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We are truly grateful to our community friends and partners for your continued support. Our growth and success would not be possible without your support.

We look forward to the future and many more years to come in service to our community!

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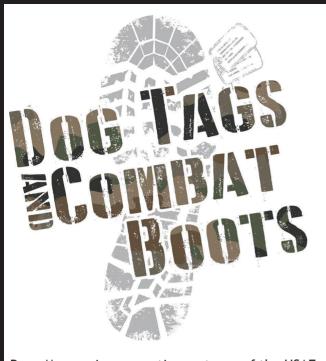
As we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our great nation, please be mindful that some of our service men and women live with PTSd. Because of this, the unexpected sounds of fireworks can be a trigger for them. The Hancock County Veterans Service Office has free signs for veterans to display in their yard to let their neighbors know that a veteran lives there. If you see this sign in someone's yard, be courteous and do not set off fireworks near their house or notify them in advance of the festivities so it does not take them by surprise. Increased PTSd symptoms can drastically impact a person's ability to function normally for several days. Please do your part to make the experience good for them too. Visit our office to get your sign. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, closing at 3:00 PM every other Tuesday. We thank all of our veterans for their service in protecting our freedoms.



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Corporal Carolina Flores

Dave Morrow is a peacetime veteran of the USAF and Utah Army National Guard. He was an educator and an EMT. Dave is currently a documentary photographer and writer. He created the website https://dogtagsandcombatboots.org/ to share the stories of our Veterans. The site is dedicated to the stories of Vietnam Veterans and to the veteran Women Warriors of Ohio. It is hoped to be a place for healing.

Marine Corps veteran, Carolina Flores was born Carolina Martinez in 1986, in Guadalajara, Mexico to Jose and Teresa. She is the third oldest of eight children.

Jose immigrated to America and eventually in1987 the rest of their family was reunited in California.

Carolina admits she was a teenager with an attitude, trying sometimes to stand out in her large family. At school she excelled on the basketball court. During a "Career Day" for seniors at her high school Carolina saw a Marine recruiter in his

"blues" and knew what she wanted to do.

Carolina's recruiter worked with her to straighten up her life and improve her grades in order to qualify for the Marine Corps. When she graduated at seventeen, Carolina asked her father to sign the permission slip to enlist. He adamantly refused!

"I was not nice and told him when I turned 18, I was leaving."

"My grandpa, who had served in the Mexican Army would take me weekly to go "shopping". He would drop me off at the recruiter for an hour

where I would train and take the entrance exam. When I turned 18, I secretly took the oath and was sworn into the Marines."

"On September 12th, 2005 I woke my parents up at 5:30 a.m. and told them I was leaving, that the recruiter was outside in the car waiting for me. It didn't go over well and I regretted for a long time how I handled it."

Carolina arrived late at night with a busload of other new recruits at Parris Island, South Carolina. She has a vivid memory of the first Marine D.I. coming aboard the bus and "screaming his welcome to us" in a deep raspy voice.

Carolina recalls standing at attention on the "notorious" yellow footprints outside the barracks. "It was a proud moment for me. It was scary but I was not going to back out even if it was intimidating. I was going to prove my dad wrong. Girls could do this!"

AIT was at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina. Her training focused on obtaining and maintaining repair parts, track parts, communication parts moving ceremony as such as radios, parts for her parents, unable to attend basic graduation, 7 tons and other required parts for tactical were present for her vehicles. promotion.) PFC Martinez was sent A fellow Marine in the to the 1st Maintenance 1st Maint, Battalion, Battalion based at Camp Bryan Flores, from Pendleton, California in Clearwater, Florida, December of 2006. She began expressing was specifically assigned interests in Carolina, to Area 21, a beachfront which she strongly area where Marines rebuffed at first. Long story short, six months trained for beach assaults. later on February Carolina was one of four female Marines in her 6th, 2007 they were unit of thirty. married in San Marcos, California. Carolina loved the Marines and was Being married to someone in the military determined to make can be tough, double the Corps her career. Many members of her that when both spouses unit would deploy to are enlisted. Bryan overseas assignments received orders to deploy to Thailand however Carolina and then Iraq leaving was held back several behind a very pregnant times due to her job Carolina. Their daughter being "essential" to the success of each Alina was four months deployment." old before Bryan returned home. In one instance her team A serious conflict was given a week to developed when Bryan gather equipment and do all the paperwork said he wanted to leave to allow a unit to do a the Marines at the end short notice deployment. of his contract, but Carolina deeply wanted Carolina had the task to reenlist. This put a completed in three days. For her efforts serious strain on the marriage. The turning she received a letter of appreciation from point in Carolina's life the commander and a and decision making occurred when she meritorious promotion

to Lance Corporal.

(This was an especially

The military requires to stay home and leave that children have guardianship turned over to a non-military family member while the soldier is deployed. Carolina assigned that to her mother, vacated her apartment and prepared to deploy. The day before she was to leave for Afghanistan, she was informed she had been removed from the roster because she only had two months left on her contract. She had intended to re-up while on deployment. The Marine Corps decided they wanted her to reenlist before any deployment. Her mother sat her down and asked her to consider: "What was more important? Being able to say she had deployed like a good Marine? Or to stay home, raise her infant daughter and salvage her marriage." "It was a brutal 24 hours as I thought through what my next life decision would be. The military had given me so much. I had so much I wanted to accomplish in the Corps. Did I want to deploy for the right

the Corps when her time was up. Bryan's mother lived in Ottawa, Ohio so the family moved there to be closer to his family. In 2011 their son Nathan joined the family. Both Carolina and Bryan earned degrees from the University of Findlay. The family would move to Florida in 2016 for Bryan's work but have since returned to Ohio. putting down roots by buying a home in Findlay. Carolina is putting her Criminal Justice degree to good use working as a Child Advocate at the Center for Safe and Healthy Children, a Child Advocacy Center, in Findlay. Besides work Carolina keeps busy with her daughter's involvement in soccer and cheerleading. Her son is active in soccer and baseball. Carolina is also proud of the fact her home is the safe gathering spot for many of the neighborhood children. They also have two furry babies, Lennox and Jack. Thank you, Corporal Carolina Flores for your service! Semper Fi Marine!

was finally put on the

deployment roster.

reasons?"

When the next morning

came, she had decided



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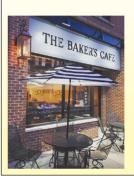






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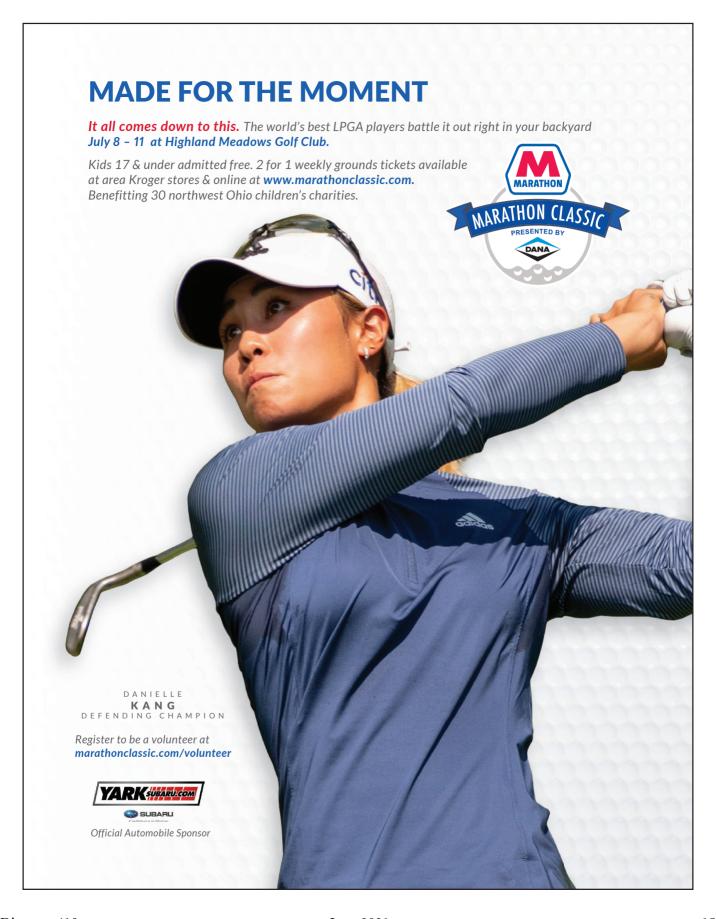


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