



Back row L-R: **Ken Wines**, Sylvania Chamber; **Katie Kwiatkowski**, Epic Realty Co.; **Michelle Donnelly**, Stapleton Insurance Group; **Corey Taylor**, Fifth Third Bank; **Louise Kachmarik**, National Exchange Club director of membership development; **Tracey Edwards**, CEO, National Exchange Club; **Steven Feldman**, Huntington Learning Center/Sylvania Club treasurer; **Steve Edwards**, Huntington Bank, Exchange Club of Toledo Club president/sponsoring club; Sylvania Chamber Welcoming Committee members **Bud Crosby**, retired Sylvania firefighter, **Nancy Jomantas**, Ability Center, and **Bob Forcht**, Premier Bank; **Andrew Mehling**, National Exchange Club manager of membership development; and **Tiffany Scott**, Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce executive director. Seated L-R: **Nate Eberly**, Edward Jones/Sylvania Exchange Club president; **Craig Kachmarik**, Stapleton Insurance Group/Sylvania Club secretary, **Marcus Hansen**, Sylvania City Council; **Doug Kwiatkowski**, Epic Realty Co.; **Diana Theiss**, Sylvania Therapy & Counseling; and **Emily Roach**, Kingston Residence of Sylvania.

Ribbon cut celebrates Exchange Club of Sylvania's new charter

A ribbon cutting marked the The Exchange Club of Sylvania's official Club Opening Event on April 21. Sylvania Town Crier Mike Lieber began the ceremonies with a cry as Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce Welcoming Committee members attended to officially mark the opening of the new organization. Leading the Exchange Club members as they serve the community are President Nate Eberly, Treasurer Steve Feldman, and Secretary Craig Kachmarik.

The new club will serve the community through Exchange's Programs of Service: Americanism, Community Service, and Youth Programs, as well as the organization's National Project, prevention of child abuse. It was sponsored by the Exchange Club of Toledo, Ohio, and built by Craig Kachmarik; vice president, Stapleton Insurance Group, and Nate Eberly; financial ad-

visor, Edward Jones. The Club Opening Event, led by National Exchange Club Chief Executive Officer Tracey Edwards, recognized the organization as officially chartered.

"Sylvania is a wonderful community and members of the Exchange Club of Sylvania are excited to give back to their neighbors through service," said Craig Kachmarik. "The Exchange Club of Sylvania is dedicated to upholding Exchange's Programs of Service and National Project, and to inspiring Sylvania to become an even better place to live."

The National Exchange Club was founded in March, 1911 in Detroit, Mich., and is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Exchange is America's oldest service club with more than 650 clubs and nearly 18,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Starlite Theater Group is ready to take center stage

A four-year-ago casual conversation between two friends about the passion for classic films evolved into the goal of having a theater in downtown Sylvania. Little did those friends realize that this talk would be the spark that ignited the recent creation of the Starlite Theater Group. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of one of those friends, Linda Szyskowski, who serves as its board president, and her daughter Jennifer Kellow-Fiorini, who has always wanted to have a small theater, those dreams are starting to take shape.

Because of Szyskowski's diligence, the group has attained 501c3 status, purchased equipment, and held its inaugural event featuring the film "Clue" on April 1 at Inside the Five's Fifth Floor. The evening featured pre-movie music videos of the 50s and 80s, fun facts about the film, and giveaway prizes to five lucky drawing winners.

Because the organization is self-contained, the show can be taken on the road. Starlite has secured a contract with Olander Park Systems to show films at the Nederhouser Community Hall with the first event, Movie under the Stars, scheduled for July 21. And work is in progress to host movies at the Sylvania Senior Center starting later this year.

What's in a name?

Starlite is a nod to the old Starlite Drive-In which was located on Monroe Street and now home to the new ProMedica complex. The name is a tie to Sylvania's history without calling this new entity "Sylvania" per se. Most people don't know that downtown Sylvania was once home to The Sylvan Theater that was said to seat almost 428 people and operated from 1938 to 1958 in the same Main Street building next to Chandler's Cafe that now houses offices.

Who They Are

Starlite is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to cultivating the arts in Sylvania and northwest Ohio/southeast Michigan areas through the presentation of films and cinematic events and by encouraging the shared experience and fun of watching movies together. "We want to help grow and evolve our collective passion for film by guiding and curating your cinematic experience.

Each one of our hand-selected, tailored events considers age, background, and walks of life including classic film, children's film, independent film, documentaries, foreign works, avant-garde film, and works of local filmmakers, none of which are readily available in our area on a regular basis," Szyskowski said. "Long-term, we look to partner with other area non-profits and expand into arts education for both children and adults — not only showcasing musical, theatrical, or cinematic productions, but offering high-level instruction as well."

"Our dream and ultimate goal is to establish a permanent arts theater and workspace for the Sylvania and northwest Ohio/southeast Michigan area," said Starlite's Programming & Social Media Director Jennifer Kellow-Fiorini, who brings her extensive knowledge of film to Sylvania from New York City. A native of Toledo, Jen's "Reel Cinema" column and TCM Picks of the Month are regular features in Sylvania AdVantage. In addition, her "Reel Cin" blog can be accessed online where all the inside scoop on some of Hollywood's biggest stars, along with video clips, recommended books and podcasts can be found.

In addition to Szyskowski and Fiorini, other board members include Ben Malczewski, Tom Burnsworth, and Sharon Lange.

Long Term

Starlite's goal for a theater space will only become a reality with community support through movie attendance, donations, volunteering, social media, and help spreading the word to area friends and family. Those who wish to donate to Starlite can visit starlitetheatergroup.org or use the QR code shown here. Be sure to follow on Facebook and Instagram. Donations of any size are welcome.



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