cityscene magazine

columbus arts, entertainment & style

ENTERTAINING CENTRAL OHIO SINCE 1999

The ONLY arts and entertainment magazine in central Ohio.

The largest circulation and readership arts and entertainment magazine in central Ohio, engaging the affluent and arts markets.

- ***CityScene* Reach**
  600,000 annually
- **94% Audited Readership**
- **CityScene Media Group Reach**
  2.4 million annually
- **ARTS + HOME VALUE = 100,000+ readers per issue!**

Perfect Partnerships!

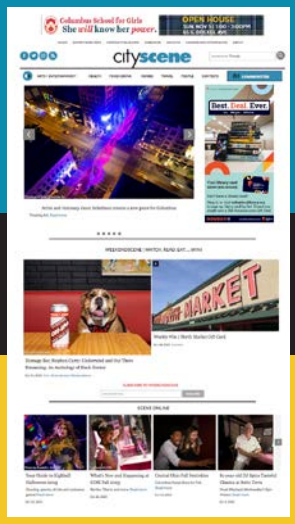
Strong partnerships with Central Ohio arts & entertainment groups support *CityScene*'s exclusive features with impressive images and interesting interviews.

CityScene's arts partners include BalletMet Columbus, Broadway in Columbus, Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Opera Columbus, Ohio Arts Council, Greater Columbus Arts Council, Jeanne B. McCoy Center for the Arts, Jazz Arts Group, Shadowbox Live and WOSU.

Partnerships with civic and community organizations lead to BONUS distribution and branding opportunities at signature events: Dublin Irish Festival, New Albany Walking Classic, The Memorial Tournament, local festivals and more!

***CityScene Magazine* is mailed to more homes in Franklin, Delaware, Union and Licking counties than any other central Ohio lifestyles magazine. *CityScene* is read by arts patrons, subscribers and homeowners!**

Bonus distribution to hotels, retail outlets and newsstands.

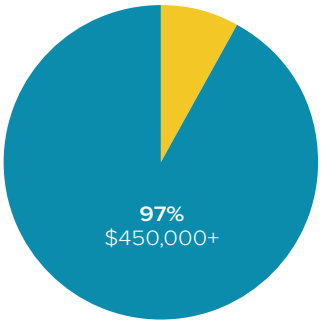


Connect

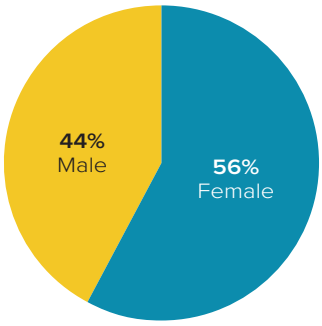
The Scene Online!

CityScene connects online via the mobile-optimized website, e-newsletters and social media. Digital subscriptions, web-only content, blogs and video are just some of the ways *CitySCene* keeps your brand in the Scene online.

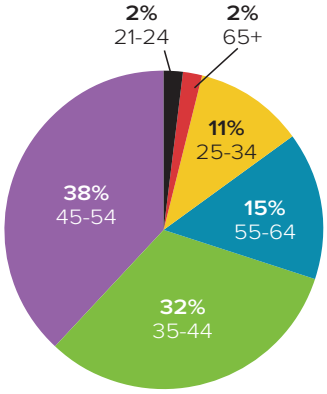
Central Ohio Arts Patrons – *CitySCene* Readers



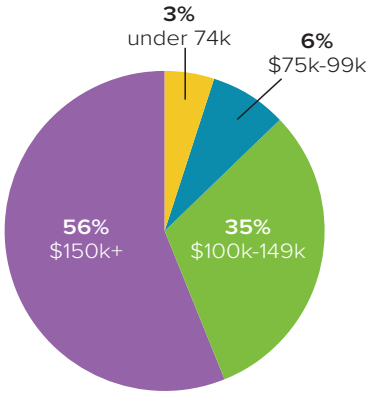
home value
97% home value $450,000+



gender
56% are female



age
85% are ages 35-64



income
91% earn $100,000+

TRAVEL

Movie Magic

Experience picture-perfect travel destinations for the holidays

By Disha Hoque

Photos courtesy of iStock: Alex_533, Aliaksandr Antanovich, ehrlif, GummyBone, JCPhotosss, Kyle Little, Maxvis, Meindert van der Haven, Poike, tunart, vkyryl, zrfphoto

LAMPPOSTS WRAPPED WITH shimmering lights, horse-drawn carriages lining cobblestone roads, shops lit up and people walking by holding warm cups of hot chocolate. This scene plays out in front of countless stories of love, hometown appreciation and family in holiday Hallmark movies.

When planning a winter getaway or 2026 vacation, consider adding some real-life Hallmark towns to your list.

Frankenmuth, Michigan

Out of state

Middleburg, Virginia

A six-hour drive from Columbus, Middleburg is the epitome of small-town Southern charm intertwining with U.S. history and nearby Blue Ridge Mountains scenes.

Dubbed the Nation's Horse and Hunt capital, the town is known for its equestrian culture and solo, couple and family adventures. Alongside opportunities to ride horseback and visit historic horse farms, shop at the various boutiques, antiques businesses and fine art museums along the historic district.

Dahlonega, Georgia

About an hour and a half north of Atlanta, central Georgia transforms into a mountainous retreat filled with festivals and celebration, such as the Dahlonega Chocolate Crawl, Literary Festival and Bear on the Square Mountain Festival.

After spending time in historic downtown Dahlonega, embark on a scenic drive around the Great Smoky Mountains and enjoy the views, or book an overnight stay through one of Dahlonega's bed and breakfasts, cabins, retreats or hotels.

Frankenmuth, Michigan

Regardless of the time of year, Frankenmuth is always in the holiday spirit. Travel north to experience German culture and celebrate Christmas all-year round in Michigan's Little Bavaria.

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, "The World's Largest Christmas Store," offers ornaments, trees and more. Hop on a trolley ride or riverboat to view all of the southeastern German-inspired architecture and landscaping. Peruse Bavarian clothing and imports downtown, and later spend an afternoon splashing at Bavarian Blast Waterpark, Michigan's largest indoor waterpark.

International

Steveston, British Columbia

A filming location for a few Hallmark films – as well as other shows and movies, including *Supernatural*, *Once Upon a Time* and the 2014 *Godzilla* film – Steveston is a great getaway for film lovers.

See the fishing village by taking a walk along Fishers Walk, enjoying fresh off-the-dock seafood and whale watching.

Bruges, Belgium

Take a flight back in time to experience medieval Europe in Bruges and Flemish culture, scenes and sounds.

For classical music lovers, Bruges is a global hotspot and hub for the orchestra. Watch a show at the Concertgebouw Brugge, one of the finest music halls in the world, or visit during the MA Festival and experience music and art in Bruges' landscapes.

Tour centuries-old canals, courtyards and buildings found in Hallmark films, such as *Love, Romance & Chocolate* (2019), and don't miss out on the chance to get a taste of one, or several, of Bruges' chocolate shops.

Local getaway

Lakeside Chautauqua

A picturesque weekend doesn't have to be an elaborate getaway.

Curate a local Hallmark adventure at Ohio's "most beautiful mile," a roughly two-and-a-half hour drive from Columbus. Spend the weekend sailing, swimming or enjoying the Lakeside Symphony Orchestra.

Experience Lake Erie's shoreline through kayaking and paddleboarding, or spend the day fishing. End the evening hopping on a boat ride, touring the waterfront and great lake.

Out of the water, delve into fitness and art classes, or put your athletic skills to the test by playing tennis, pickleball or shuffle board along the waterfront. Turn a day trip into an overnight stay by booking a Lakeside cottage, inn or hotel. CS

Disha Hoque is an editorial assistant at CityScene Media Group. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.

Dahlonega, Georgia

Bruges, Belgium

Steveston, British Columbia

Fun fact!

Although primarily filmed in Ireland, the Hallmark movie *Forever in My Heart* (2019) begins in Columbus, Ohio, where protagonist Jenna works for a Columbus-based hotel chain.

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CUISINE

FOOD FIGHT!

Taco 'Bout It

Uncovering the tastiest tacos in central Ohio

By Megan Brokamp

Photos courtesy of the restaurants and Megan Brokamp

Character illustrations by Seth Hanz

It's a staple for family dinners. It's the perfect companion to chips and salsa. At times, it's a late-night snack after one too many beverages. The taco is a simple yet delicious food that stands the test of time.

Over the years, the dish has diversified, sparking much debate in the foodie community. Is a hard shell or a soft shell better? What toppings belong on the taco? How do taco trucks compare to their brick-and-mortar cousins?

With all of these arguments in mind, the true question remains simple: What defines a traditional taco?

The taco's origins trace back to the 18th century, with the term stemming from the Nahuatl language spoken by the Aztecs. In its original context, the word referred to a small piece of paper used to wrap food. Over the years, the taco has evolved significantly, shaped by a blend of cultural influences, to become the iconic dish we know today.

The beauty of the taco is its versatility. From Dorito shells to bacon fillings, central Ohio restaurants have gotten creative with taco varieties.

For some, these new spins are the perfect way to enjoy this Mexican staple without growing bored of the flavor. For others, simplicity is key.

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Hunting HAUNTS

Best places in Ohio to search for spirits

By Tyler Kirkendall

GIVEN OHIO'S PLETHORA of historic homes, repurposed buildings and spooky Victorian structures, it's hardly surprising that you can find haunted places all over the map.

Throughout autumn, spooky events fill out the calendar in central Ohio and many other regions of the state. Ohio History Connection is a great source of information and events all year, and it knows how to go all-out once summer passes and a chill takes over the fall air.

While the schedule for this year's Fright at the Museum event at the Ohio History Center are not yet confirmed, the event will take place Oct. 19 and 26. Past years' festivities have included "Sleepy Hollow" campfire stories, tasteful Victorian-inspired decor, mask- and puppet-crafting, and history-inspired masquerades.

If you can't wait to get your fill of ghost stories before that time rolls around, Ohio Exploration Society's collection of hauntings and legends – organized by county on a clickable map – can inspire you with plenty of local tales from Pickerington to Put-in-Bay.

Columbus' vagrant spirits

Columbus is no stranger to growth and change throughout its history, and ghastly remnants of the city's bygone eras have shown themselves to believers all over the region.

Before much of Columbus was constructed in the 1800s, its landscape was very different. The winding Scioto River was deeper and narrower than it is in today's dam- and levy-terraformed waterway, and it had many more islands that have since washed away.

One such bygone island, nicknamed British Island, had a history of tragedy, leaving many spirits wayward across central Ohio. It earned its name during the War of 1812 when captured British soldiers were held in cells in the middle of the river.

The island was constantly prone to partial flooding, which made escape easier on occasion, but also created health hazards and often killed trapped prisoners. North of the intersection of the Scioto and Olentangy rivers, reports of soldiers' spirits have kept the gruesome memory of British Island alive.

This is not the only claustrophobic tragedy that haunts Columbus. The Arena District is said to be the stomping grounds of spirits from those lost in the tragic 1930 fire that killed 332 inmates at the Ohio State Penitentiary.

The massive, overcrowded reformatory was a source of shame for the city and state long before the fire, which is still considered the worst prison fire in American history. Its unendingly troubled past makes it an easy rabbit hole to dive down for the most ambitious – and strong-stomached – haunting enthusiasts.

Mansfield Reformatory

No discussion of haunted Ohio hotspots is complete without the Mansfield Reformatory. After a decade of construction on its impressive 40-acre footprint, the facility received its first inmates in 1896.

Its operation as a prison concluded in 1990 after a lawsuit forced it to shut down due to poor living conditions. From gangsters to country singers, there is no shortage of notable names on Mansfield Reformatory's inmate log. Its level of fame has increased significantly over the past two decades as the film *The Shawshank Redemption*, which was shot on-location, has become a classic with film buffs.

After the reformatory sat vacant for a few years in the 1990s, the state sold the structure for $1 to a group of local activists looking to preserve the building, and it has become one of the state's leading attractions for ghost hunters.

Once able to hold about 2,000 prisoners at a time, it now welcomes more than 120,000 visitors annually. A variety of paranormal tours run throughout the year, from public pass-throughs to overnight stays for the most dedicated paranormal hunters.

Rogue's Hollow's many tales

Located in Doylestown, just a few miles outside of Akron, Rogue's Hollow was once known for coal mining and unruly locals, and it is now known for a pair of spirits who wander the area after dark.

Crybaby bridges are bridges famous for their associations with urban legends and ghost stories, and Rogue Hollow's crybaby bridge is known as one of the most active paranormal hotspots in Ohio.

Legend has it that a couple's car was overturned on the bridge and their baby didn't survive, but believers disagree on why. Some say the baby was in the car with them; others say it made it through the crash, but starved after it was not found. But all witnesses agree they've heard its haunting cry when crossing the bridge today.

The ominous name Rogue's Hollow certainly lends itself to spooky tales, and historically the tale of a headless horse has been the town's claim to paranormal fame.

Decapitated by the lowest bow of the aptly nicknamed Ghost Oak Tree, the horse is said to frequent the bridge and haunt passersby.

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VISUALS

"It's meaningful to me because it represents being an adult, but looking at a place or discovering a place and a culture and people through childlike eyes."

Ice Journey

Artist collaboration uses poetry and charcoal drawings to explore Icelandic culture

By Frances Denman

Photos courtesy of Birgir Ísleifur Gunnarson

LIFELONG WRITER ERIN Boggs says she never thought to publish her poetry until she first visited Iceland in 2022. With a passion for travel and appreciation for nature, Boggs says it was in this folkloric, beautiful and culture-rich country where she found incredible inspiration for her first exhibition: *A Journey of Iceland – From Darkness to Light*.

Boggs met local charcoal artist Einar Örn Benediktsson during her first visit to Iceland. Having felt an immediate connection with Benediktsson, Boggs eventually proposed a collaboration.

From Darkness to Light combines Boggs' poetry, which follows an alien who is experiencing Iceland for the first time, with Benediktsson's charcoal drawings, which function as an abstract response to the poetry.

"It's a conversation between a local and a foreigner or an outsider who's learning," Boggs says. "I might make a statement in a poem, and Einar is either agreeing with me or (correcting) me."

The exhibition is in four chapters that lead the viewer through Iceland's history and culture.

Chapter one, *The Unseen*, focuses on Iceland's mysteries, legends and stories. Next is *Weather*, inspired by the country's unpredictable and ever-changing climate, as well as its unique nature. Chapter three is *Landscape*, which represents Boggs' awe in the face of Iceland's mountains, volcanoes and craters – reminiscent of a science fiction film, she says. Lastly, *Culture* spotlights the warmth, kindness and spirit of Icelanders and their traditions.

"It's (about) the human connection," Boggs says. "It's meaningful to me because it represents being an adult, but looking at a place or discovering a place and a culture and people through childlike eyes."

Benediktsson's son, Kaktus Einarsson, composed a soundscape to complete the project and set the tone of the artistic conversation between alien and native. Einarsson's music, Boggs says, captures the message of the artwork perfectly.

Boggs plans to make *A Journey of Iceland* into a series of poetry explorations focused on different countries, and she wouldn't rule out another collaboration with Benediktsson.

"When we were well into the project and knew each other a little bit better, I asked him, 'Why did you agree? You didn't know me,'" Boggs says. "In true Einar fashion, he said, 'Because it sounded like something fun to do.'" CS

***A Journey of Iceland – From Darkness to Light* is on display at the Dublin Arts Council, 7125 Riverside Dr., from March 8 through April 25. For more information or a sneak peek at Boggs' work, visit her website at www.erinboggs.art.**

Frances Denman is an editorial assistant at CityScene Media Group. Feedback welcome at feedback@cityscenemediagroup.com.

From left: Erin Boggs, Einar Örn Benediktsson and Kaktus Einarsson

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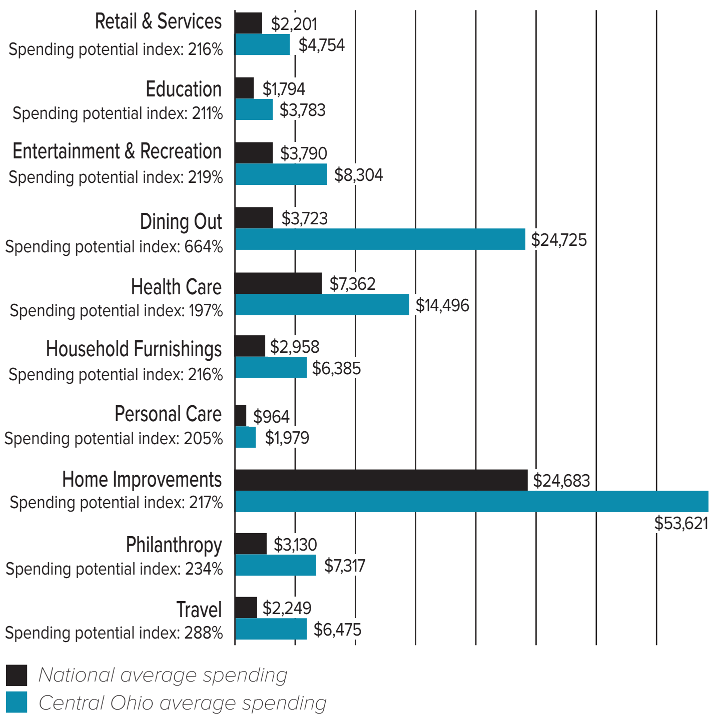
CityScene readers are above average spenders!

Spending data based on a single household



*Spending potential index is the amount spent in the area relative to a national average of 100. Some numbers have been rounded up to the nearest whole number, and the national spending average was adjusted to be consistent across all communities. Data collected from esri Market Profile.

Luxury Living SPOTLIGHT

WINNER! Best of the Bus 2025

Awe-Inspiring Abodes

Prominent projects by Best of the 'Bus-winning builders and remodelers

By Garth Bishop

Photos courtesy of Ashton Onesko/Prestige Pro Photo and 3 Pillar Homes

Best Home Builder

3 Pillar Homes

Point to any standout feature in a home designed by 3 Pillar Homes, no matter how exceptional, and someone at the company will be able to explain how its process made that feature possible.

Keeping much of its team in-house, rather than relying on outside contractors, is a key part of 3 Pillar's approach to homebuilding. An in-house architectural designer puts together a plan, and an in-house interior designer keeps the process on track, with both serving as checks on the project's budget and ensuring everything keeps moving at a good pace.

"We make a complicated process an easy one," says Rachael Durant, 3 Pillar's vice president of sales, marketing and design. "Trying to make the process as streamlined and easy (as possible) for the client is what sets us apart."

The company has built communities and developed its own properties, but will also work in multi-builder developments and locked-in site developments, beginning work with clients as early as the vacant lot stage of the process if that's what they want, Durant says. 3 Pillar's goal is to provide a premium product that can be customized to the client's preferences, she says.

"Every client gets that same level of customer service and process," Durant says.

A dedicated construction services team is responsible for building out custom features. The customizations the company has built in recent years include:

- Sauna spaces, in response to a recent increase in demand
- Specialized foundations with drop-downs to accommodate golf simulators
- Hidden vaults for storage or security
- Two-story walk-in closets
- Multigenerational living features such as main-floor in-law suites
- Combination indoor-outdoor spaces
- Wine and bourbon rooms

Though 3 Pillar does not build pools, it partners with pool contractors so clients can have their pools built at the same times as their houses.

"Pretty much anything that they can dream of, we can create," says Durant.

The company builds maintenance-free living and patio homes, and is working to add townhomes to its repertoire in the near future.

Evans Farm

The company's current work is most exemplified by its presence in Evans Farm. 3 Pillar is the main builder for the southern Delaware County community designed in the New Urbanism style, which emphasizes patio living and walkability.

"That's really the vision of what Evans Farm is: a walkable, livable community where you can have (all) the conveniences right outside your doorstep," says Durant.

Every Evans Farm home is required to have a large front porch, and the builder has put together some impressive ones there, many of which can be easily spotted during a drive through the neighborhood, Durant says. 3 Pillar's design studio is on-site there, which means Evans Farm clients have immediate access to the in-house interior designer.

Best Remodeling Company

Dave Fox Design Build Remodelers

The work that put Dave Fox Design Build Remodelers in the No. 1 spot this year can be seen in a pair of kitchen remodel projects the company recently completed around central Ohio.

Project No. 1: Powell

This project, completed in late 2023, focused primarily on the kitchen, along with work on the nearby stairs, and a refinish with some custom stain for the floor.

The homeowners did not care for the old kitchen's layout, says Andrea Conley, a Dave Fox senior interior designer who worked on the project.

The long island did not leave much room to work or maneuver in the narrow kitchen space, so Dave Fox removed it, installing a more functional U-shaped counter instead. While seating at the island once made it difficult to navigate the kitchen, the minimal counter seating suits the space just right, Conley says.

"Everybody wants an island and is getting rid of the (counter) peninsula, but … it really works better to design the kitchen to the space that you have," she says.

The company took advantage of the long wall opposite the counter to relocate

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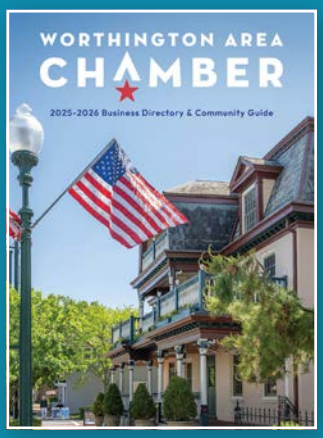
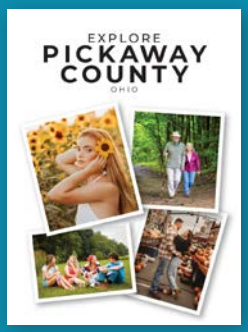
Luxury Living

featured in every issue!

CityScene readers OWN their homes. And, they live everywhere from German Village, the Short North and downtown Columbus to the I-270 suburbs. *Luxury Living* features some of the coolest living options in each of these areas, as well as home and garden trends, remodeling and new home building.





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CityScene Media Group has forged lasting partnerships in central Ohio, ranging from communities such as Dublin, New Albany and Westerville, to area arts organizations, Chambers of Commerce and leading event organizers.

CityScene Media Group is dedicated to helping our clients achieve their marketing and communication objectives by partnering with them to produce high-quality publications with compelling content.

- BIA Parade of Homes Tour Guide
- Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce Directory
- Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce Directory
- Visit Gahanna Visitors Guide
- Explore Pickaway County
- Sunbury Big Walnut Community Guide & Chamber Directory
- New Albany Annual Report
- New Albany Chamber of Commerce Directory
- Explore Licking County Travel Guide
- Westerville Visitors & Convention Bureau Community & Events Guide
- NARI Central Ohio *Renovations*
- Granville Magazine
- UA100 Centennial

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