In January, PBS Western Reserve presented the broadcast premiere of THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN, a production featuring local craftsman Richard Grell.

For more than 50 years, Grell has been hand-crafting Windsor chairs on his Hudson, Ohio, property, using wood from his farm. His museum-quality chairs are owned by institutions, businesses and individuals across the country, including famous actors, musicians, Fortune 500 CEOs and presidents.

Many of his finest pieces reside in museums and schools across the United States including the Ong Library and Wilson Hall on the Western Reserve Academy campus and the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum in Washington, D.C. Sixty-five of his pieces were commissioned for the University of New England Alumni Hall in Portland, Maine.

THE MASTER CRAFTSMAN is an intimate look into Grell’s woodworking skills and techniques. The local production is the work of Phillip Sieb, filmmaker and director, and Philip Leiter, a board member of Hudson Heritage Association, who served as the film’s director of photography.

The documentary is available on demand at www.PBSWesternReserve.org/master-craftsman.
Station van has a wrap!
The station van now attractively promotes the organization out in the community thanks to a new branding wrap that was designed by Paula Cline, digital platforms and publications manager.

Real estate donation option implemented
PBS Western Reserve recently partnered with CARS (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) to process donations in the form of real estate assets.

Properties in any location, condition and format are eligible for donation. Back taxes, mortgage balances and deferred maintenance do not prohibit the ability to donate. Our program covers all loans, liens, commissions and closing costs, as long as there is equity in the property.

More information can be found at www.PBSWesternReserve.org/real-estate.

Matching gifts program enhanced
On the PBS Western Reserve website, thanks to a new search feature, donors can now more easily determine whether their employer offers a matching gifts program. Members with an employer that offers such a program have direct access to instructions on how to submit a matching gift request, thereby expanding the impact of their gift to our organization.

Judson Manor to hold documentary screening
On March 1, Judson Manor in Cleveland will hold a screening of JOSEPH O’SICKEY: THE ART OF LIFE, a PBS Western Reserve production. An exhibit of the revered late artist’s drawings and paintings is free and open to the public at Judson Manor until April 1.

Additional content supports Black History Month
To promote the station’s Black History Month programming in February, Stephanie Virgallito, digital marketing & community engagement specialist, created a short-form video at the Black College Football Hall of Fame for use on social media.

The video will support an encore presentation of the documentary BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL: JOURNEY TO CANTON and many other Black History Month programs.
Tuesday is for Toddlers!

First Tuesday Is for Toddlers event held

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the station’s first Tuesday Is for Toddlers event took place at the Eastwood Mall in Niles. In keeping with a winter activities theme, employee Holly Cartwright read the classic children’s book “A Snowy Day” and led 25 toddlers in creating a snowman lantern craft.

On Tuesday, March 14, the next event will have a springtime theme and feature a special appearance from Elinor of the PBS Kids show ELINOR WONDERS WHY.

Tuesday Is for Toddlers events are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Eastwood Mall. To register, visit https://www.pbswesternreserve.org.

Additional outreach events planned for March

The station’s Educational Services Department will hold several educational outreach events in March.

On Wednesday, March 8, as part of Youngstown Phantoms School Day Game at the Covelli Center in Youngstown, the station will offer a “Get Schooled” game. The event focuses on STEAM, career exploration in sports and drug prevention and attracts thousands of elementary, middle and high school students from surrounding communities.

On Saturday, March 25, in collaboration with the Warren-Trumbull Library main branch in Warren, PBS Western Reserve will participate in Family Book Day. The annual family event will include a Daniel Tiger meet-and-greet plus free giveaways.

Station receives funding to conduct free STEM activities

PBS Western Reserve has received funding to support local participation in Cyberchase: Mobile Adventures in STEM. This national initiative is designed to advance STEM learning in 6-8-year-olds by helping parents—particularly Latino and low-income families—engage with their children in fun environmental science and math activities.

At the local level, public television stations including PBS Western Reserve are responsible for recruiting families to participate in the free program and for encouraging the families’ ongoing engagement.

Ohio Ready to Learn training sessions continue

Seventeen Ohio Ready to Learn trainings occurred from November through January. Seven additional trainings are scheduled through February. Thirty-six training opportunities are committed for 2022 and 2023.

Station staff updates professional directory

PBS Western Reserve is uploading and refreshing the Ohio Professional Learning Directory, www.ohiopld.org, a free resource that offers Ohio educators and school staff a searchable database for high-quality professional development opportunities.
New intern welcomed

The Production Department welcomed intern Anna Spagnola in January. A senior dual major in digital media production and French, Spagnola is in her final semester at Kent State University. Among other tasks, she will be indexing various content from the station archives.

Employees judge student competition

Station employees Fred Barrett and Ryan Donchess recently judged entries for the 2023 Ohio Business Professionals of America Region 11 competition hosted by the Trumbull Career and Technical Center. High school juniors and seniors created and submitted video projects and in-person presentations with hopes of advancing to the state competition in Columbus later this spring.

Ryan Donchess instructs at KSU

Ryan Donchess, production manager, completed teaching the course Digital Video Editing in the fall semester at Kent State University. Many students in the class showed adept editing skills and the ability to tell stories creatively.

Fred Barrett collaborates with Trumbull Career & Technical Center

In January, Fred Barrett, emerging media and development manager, met with Kris Doran, interactive multimedia instructor at Trumbull Career & Technical Center, to discuss outreach strategies and collaboration opportunities. During his visit, Barrett was a guest on TCTC’s student-run podcast, “Doing Time With Deputy Mike,” where he discussed the many aspects of podcasting.

Stephanie Virgallito to serve on United Way committee

Stephanie Virgallito, digital marketing & community engagement specialist, is a new appointee to the marketing committee of United Way of Summit & Medina. United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of the local community to advance the common good.