



# ONE YEAR LATER...

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382 days have passed since Governor Mike DeWine declared Ohio in a state of emergency when three people in Cuyahoga County tested positive for the coronavirus. Two days later, the fourth case sprang up.

380 days have gone by since the NCAA tournaments in Dayton were cancelled and the gathering of large groups became a large risk-factor. One day later, the fifth case appeared.

379 days sped by since schools were ordered to be closed for three weeks to prevent children and teachers from contracting the virus. One day later, the number of

positive cases rose to 13.

374 days ago and 50 people knew what Covid-19 felt like, 14 were hospitalized.

These numbers symbolize the growth of a pandemic, which is one of the deadliest forms of natural disasters. Pandemics, as shown through history, only take a few days to change the lives and routines of an entire body of people.

As the United States now grows closer to eradicating the virus once and for all with vaccines, there are still several factors to consider in the meantime.

Businesses have suffered losses after the lockdown, when essential and nonessential businesses both fought to stay open through it all. Individuals had to learn to cope

with mask-wearing, social distancing and the loss of major events and milestones.

President of Ashland University Dr. Carlos Campo can attest to seeing these changes as he led an institution of students and faculty through several hard times. The school had to navigate through deaths of colleagues who did not get to receive a memorial or funeral service, and also the upset of students who were not able to attend a graduation many dreamed of since they embarked on their journey to higher education.

"I do believe that the sense of community is even stronger at AU," Campo said. "I heard from a lot of people that it was a really difficult time for them, and some

had family members that were lost during this time. I feel like we're an even stronger community and I do think the simple things that we took for granted in the past, we don't take for granted anymore."

Communities found ways to rally together, and groups found ways to hold events from virtual platforms.

In Ashland, many saw the needs that residents had and provided for them in more ways than one.

Whether it was picking up lunches from the Ashland Middle School during the summer, getting groceries from the Kroc Center, or attending drive-in churches and picking up pre-made breakfasts from the parking lots, there were community-building actions that helped several people.

Ashland Mayor Matt Miller was not surprised by the actions of the community. He explained that Ashland has a long history of taking care of its own.

"The pandemic has shown us once again, that the people of Ashland City and Ashland County are resilient. These are salt of the earth people who will adapt and can be trusted to do the right thing," Miller said. "During these past 12 months our family, our students, our community leaders all stepped up to the plate to do whatever we had to do to keep moving and to keep our community safe."

Read the rest on AU-Live.com



EVAN LAUX & AVAERIE FITZGERALD

The Ashland University community begins to return to normalcy after over a year of being restricted by mask mandates, social distancing and online learning.

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