



Steam locomotives needed more maintenance than today's diesel/electric locomotives. The roundhouse on Bucyrus Road was a busy place in the mid-1900's.



The roundhouse was owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad. This picture is from 1943.



A Pennsylvania locomotive and coal car roll into the maintenance yard. Locomotives had to be pulled from duty about every 100 miles to keep them in good working order.



The railroad provided hundreds of jobs for people in Crestline and the surrounding area.



Our school pays homage to the Pennsylvania Railroad. Look up as you walk in the front doors and you'll see this logo.



BULLDOG BULLETIN

ALL ABOARD AGAIN

First came the railroad and then came the town

The State of Ohio wants more people to use public transportation. One way they are doing this is to create a commuter rail line that runs to the three largest cities in the state: Cleveland, to Columbus, to Cincinnati. The plan is to add stops in smaller communities along the way. Dayton has been added as a stop, and efforts are being made to make Crestline another stop.

Why is a rail stop so important to Crestline? According to the history of the village of Crestline, in 1850 a rail line was needed to connect Shelby and Galion. Neither Bucyrus or Mansfield were interested, so the tracks, called the "Bee Line" were built through open country between Shelby and Galion. A station was built where the track crossed Leesville Road.

People started settling near the station, and in 1852 the village of Crestline was platted.

During its heyday, Crestline was a division point for the Pennsylvania Railroad's Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway. The station served as a transfer point to the New York Central Railroad's northeast-southwest trains.

According to Bill Histed's website, "Growing up in Crestline," the community became a mini-melting pot because the railroad provided stable, well-paying jobs for people from the eastern United States who were looking for better opportunities.

A highlight for the community, albeit a solemn occasion, was the funeral train for Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was a proponent for railroad development in the U.S., and the funeral train was in honor of his support of the railroad. The train stopped in Crestline on April 29, 1865 at 4:07 am.

During the railroad's heyday in Crestline, over a dozen passenger trains would make stops at the station. The trains were so regular that a passenger could leave Crestline in the morning, travel to Chicago for the day, and arrive back home in Crestline in the evening.

The community became a welcome spot for American soldiers during World War II. The village set up a community service center, where soldiers traveling across the country to various military bases could get off the train and have a free sandwich and a cup of coffee. Over 100,000 soldiers passed through Crestline during WWII.

Train travel started to decline with the development of the interstate highway system and the last of Amtrak's passenger trains stopped using the rail through Crestline over 30 years ago. The new service may not have as many trains stopping in town like it did 80 years ago, but having a stop in Crestline pays homage to the community's railroad history. It's an option for people in the town and surrounding area to take advantage of alternate forms of transportation, and it may bring more businesses and jobs to the community.

TOTAL ECLIPSE IN THE HEART OF OHIO*



An enhanced image of a solar eclipse. Image courtesy of the Nine Planets.

In case you haven't heard, there's going to be a solar eclipse on Monday, April 8. Ohio is in what is called the area of totality. The central line of the eclipse is just west of Crestline, passing over Seneca, Wyandot, and Hardin Counties. We will still be able to see the eclipse just fine from here.

What's so great about a solar eclipse? According to the website Astronomy.com, it's a big deal.

This is the first continental eclipse in seven years, and everyone in the United States will get to see the eclipse, either partial, or completely. The eclipse will start in Texas and end in Maine. Totality will last four minutes and twenty-eight seconds.

It is safe to look at the eclipse without any eye protection during totality, but as soon as the moon starts to move you'll need to put your eclipse glasses on.

What are solar eclipse glasses? They look like cardboard 3-D glasses, but instead of the blue and red lenses, they have lenses that reduce the level of sunlight to avoid injuring your eyes. If you have an old pair of glasses from the last eclipse in 2017, it's recommended that you do not use them, as the lens material can lose its protective ability over time. Regular sunglasses, even polarized lens ones, and 3-D glasses are NOT safe to use.



Look for eclipse glasses which are marked as meeting the ISO 12312-2 standard for solar eclipse wear.

Eclipse glasses can be purchased online, and some local businesses are selling them, but expect them to run out soon, if they haven't already.

According to state officials, Ohio is going to be packed with people who want to be as close to the eclipse totality line as possible. This is going to be great for local businesses, but it's going to make our day to day activities on eclipse day a bit challenging. Patience is the key. Eclipse watchers will be rolling into town over the weekend, so get all of your errands done early, then get out and meet some really great people from around the country. If you have an entrepreneurial mind, you could rent space for parking in your yard, or if you have enough space you could let people pitch a tent and camp, for a fee, of course.

Because of the influx of people into Ohio, most schools have closed for the day. Crestline schools will be closed on April 8.

Keep in mind, this might be all for nothing. This is Ohio after all, and it's spring, so there's a good chance it could be cloudy. Or raining. Or snowing.

*Thank you, Mrs. Anderson, for the headline idea!

PATH OF TOTALITY



The map shows where the best view for a total eclipse will be. Image courtesy of education.ohio.gov.

HOTELS ARE GOING FAST

If you have friends or family coming to see the eclipse and they haven't reserved a hotel room, they might be out of luck. Most hotels in the area are already booked for April 6-8. If they do have some rooms available, they're going to be expensive.

According to the hotel search site Expedia.com, you can expect to spend this amount (or more) depending on the room you want to reserve. Here's some prices for Sunday, April 7th:

- Hampton Inn, Ontario - sold out
- Best Western, Mansfield - \$299
- LaQuinta, Mansfield - \$220
- Townplace Suites, Ontario - \$499

SEE THE ECLIPSE FROM THE FRIENDLY SKIES

Some airplane passengers will have the chance to experience the eclipse in the sky April 8, Delta Air Lines announced. The special flight, number 1218, is scheduled to travel from Austin, Texas, to Detroit from 12:15 p.m. CT until 4:20 p.m. ET. This flight sold out in less than 24 hours, so Delta has scheduled another flight.

If you happen to be traveling by air on another airline there's a good chance you will be able to see the eclipse since it stretches across the country. Protective glasses are needed whether you're on the ground or in the air.