



# Board of Commissioners

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## LOCAL OFFICIALS PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

PAINESVILLE, OH, April 25, 2022 – County Commissioners John Hamercheck and John Plecnik, along with County Treasurer Michael Zuren, participated in an Earth Day celebration at Parkside Elementary in Painesville.

They discussed the story of Johnny Appleseed with 87 third grade students and detailed his mission to help cure hunger by planting apple tree seeds throughout the Midwest. As one of the most beloved characters in U.S. history, Johnny Appleseed may have been how he was known but he was actually born



John Chapman in 1774. He began his trek in western Pennsylvania and continued westward from the Alleghenies through central Ohio and into Illinois creating a total of around 100,000 square miles of orchards.

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"We enjoyed interacting with the children and discussing with them the importance of taking care of the environment," said Board Commissioner John Hamercheck. Each student received an American Sycamore sapling tree to take home and plant. "Earth Day represents a future for generations to come," he added.

Since 1970, Earth Day has been recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people every year. This day is a call to action to change human behavior by protecting our world and fighting for a clean environment. It has grown to include a wide range of events coordinated globally through EarthDay.org.

"Lake County is the best place on Earth, but it needs our help to thrive," commented Commissioner John Plecnik. "By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we're making our world a happier and healthier place to live. I am grateful to the students at Parkside Elementary for their enthusiasm in conserving our natural resources, especially Lake Erie."

Earth Day 2022's theme is "Invest in our Planet" and it features (6) primary programs; The Great Global Cleanup, Sustainable Fashion, Climate and Environmental Literacy, the Canopy Project, Food and Environment, and the Global Earth Challenge.

Treasurer Michael Zuren added, "It was an honor to spend time with the third-grade class at Parkside discussing what Earth Day meant to them and how they can keep our parks, beaches, and lake clean for the future. The students were so excited to receive the American Sycamore saplings to plant at home with their families. We are blessed to live in Lake County with all the abundant resources."

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