



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Board of Commissioners Appoint New Senior Citizen Advisory Panel Members

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, February 22, 2024 - On February 22, 2024, the Board of Commissioners appointed Emily R. Koenig and Lawrence W. Sterk to the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel. Both candidates were chosen based on their experience, skills, and dedication to serving the senior community.

The Panel serves as an advisory and recommending body to the Board of Lake County Commissioners to facilitate equitable and beneficial distribution of the funds derived annually from the Lake County Senior Services Levy. The Panel, with guidance from the county administrator and senior services manager, plays a crucial role in advising the Board of Commissioners on how levy funds should be prioritized and distributed to best meet the needs of older adults in the community. The recent expansion of the Panel from five members to seven members will strengthen the Panel's ability to evaluate programs and services and ensure that the needs of Lake County seniors are met in the most effective and efficient way possible.

"We are thrilled to welcome Emily Koenig of Mentor and Larry Sterk of Kirtland to the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel," said Commission President John T. Plecnik. "Their expertise and passion for serving our senior community will be invaluable in ensuring that senior levy funds are used effectively."

The process by which levy funds are allocated is carefully monitored and overseen by the Board of Commissioners to ensure transparency, sustainability, and accountability. The Commissioners' office conducts an annual application process before funding recommendations by staff are made to the Panel, and then the Board of Commissioners. With an annual budget of approximately \$4.8 million, levy funding provides essential services to older adults including home delivered and congregate meals, social work services, homemaker and non-medical in home care services, as well as home repairs and modifications. Funding is also awarded to help support programming through Adult Protective Services, the Volunteer Guardian Program, the Lake County Volunteer Network, Project Hope for the Homeless, and nine area senior centers.

"Lake County is committed to providing the highest quality of life for its senior residents. Through the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel and the allocation of senior levy funds, the county is able to support a wide range of services and programs to meet the needs of older adults," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"The Lake County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of engaging community members in the decision-making process," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. "We believe that the expertise and insights provided by the Senior Citizens Advisory Panel are instrumental in making informed and effective decisions regarding the usage of senior levy funds."

Questions related to the Lake County Senior Services Levy can be directed to Alyea Barajas, Senior Services Manager, at alyea.barajas@lakecountyohio.gov or (440) 350-2748.

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