



# Board of Commissioners

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### Lake County Commissioners Proclaim May “Older Americans Month”

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, May 2, 2024– At today’s Commissioners’ Meeting, the Board proclaimed May 2024, “Older Americans Month” in Lake County. Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of Older American Month (OAM). This year’s theme, Powered by Connection, offers the opportunity to explore the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place by combatting isolation, loneliness, and other issues.

“Ensuring that older adults can age in place and afford to stay in their home benefits everyone,” said Commission President John T. Plecnik. “Lake County is fortunate to have real support for senior services through the Lake County Senior Services Levy and 30% water and sewer discount for seniors in need.”

This May, the Board encourages Lake County to join as they recognize OAM and challenge the narrative on aging.

Here are some suggestions seniors can participate in “Powered by Connection”:

- Share facts about the mental, physical, and emotional health benefits of social connection and how it contributes to overall well-being.
- Promote resources that help older adults engage, like community events, social clubs, and volunteer opportunities.
- Connect older adults with local services, such as transportation, that can help them overcome obstacles to achieving or maintaining meaningful relationships.
- Encourage partners to host a connection-centric event or program focused on older adult mentors to youth, peer-to-peer support, or similar efforts.



*Pictured left to right: Cristen Kane, Alyea Barajas, Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Commissioner John R. Hamercheck, Paul Pahoresky, Joseph Tomsick, Carrie Dotson, Commissioner Richard J. Regovich*

- Challenge professional and personal networks to prioritize meaningful social connections and share the benefits.

“We want to take a moment to honor the Lake County senior residents who contribute their strength, wisdom, and experience to our community as family members, friends, mentors, volunteers, civic leaders, members of the workforce, and more,” said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"We are honored to recognize the contributions and achievements of our older residents by proclaiming May as 'Older Americans Month' in Lake County. This year's theme of Powered by Connection emphasizes the importance of staying connected to combat isolation and promote independence as our population continues to age. We look forward to celebrating and supporting our older community members," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

Inspire older adults to share what connection means to them on social media using the hashtag #PoweredByConnection and #OlderAmericansMonth.

For more information on services for older adults and programs available to help older adults stay connected, contact the Board of Lake County Commissioners Senior Services Manager, Alyea Barajas, at (440) 350-2748.

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