



Lake Views

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 - SPRING 2021

LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

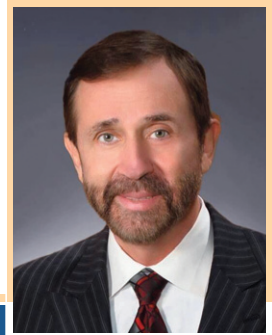
GREETINGS RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECNIK



COMMISSIONER
RON YOUNG

Welcome to the launch of "Lake Views"; your quarterly local government newsletter and guide!

Our goal is to introduce you to employees making significant on the job achievements, highlight projects that could impact you or your business, provide forecasts and reviews to help you stay better informed, and notify you of programs, services, initiatives and events that may be of interest to you.

This inaugural edition includes an introduction to Commissioner Plecnik, how to sign up for emergency notifications from the Emergency Management Agency, information regarding upcoming recycling collections and much, much more!

We are proud to offer this additional avenue of communication to our residents and others who are interested in Lake County and we look forward to the opportunity to provide you with additional content and resources throughout the year! ■

MEET JOHN PLECNIK: YOUR NEWEST LC COMMISSIONER!

On February 11, 2021, John Plecnik was sworn in as the 79th Lake County Commissioner by Justice Pat DeWine of the Ohio Supreme Court. Commissioner Plecnik now serves as one of your three Commissioners, who meet weekly in Painesville to

vote on the budget and administrative policy for Lake County.

"We are very excited to welcome John Plecnik to the Lake County Board of Commissioners," said President & Commissioner John Hamercheck. "His years of experience as a public servant and educator are a valuable addition to our leadership team."

In the past, Commissioner Plecnik was elected to three terms as Councilman-at-Large for the City of Willoughby Hills. He also served as Vice President of the Board of Trustees for Willoughby-Eastlake Public Libraries. *(continued on page 3)*



BOARD PRESIDENT JOHN HAMERCHECK (*left*) WITNESSES
JOHN PLECNIK AS HE TAKES HIS OATH OF OFFICE.

SPRING LAKE VIEWS
P1.

RSVP

ANNOUNCES MOVE TO COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Lake County Commissioners is excited to announce the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Lake County, also known as RSVP, has moved to the Lake County Administration Center. The move was effective April 1, 2021.

RSVP, a federal AmeriCorps Senior program, works to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to individuals aged 55 and older. The program operated out of the Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation but after completion of a yearlong strategic plan focusing on priorities related to the Senior Services Levy, it was determined the program should move, not only to preserve precious levy dollars for other senior programming, but also to foster the opportunity to expand and enhance volunteer services across the County.

Keeping in line with this original mission, the volunteer program will re-launch as the Lake County Volunteer Network. The goal is to begin to engage volunteers aged 18 and older to help meet the needs of the growing senior population in Lake County.

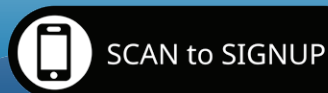
To learn more about the Lake County Volunteer Network or how to get involved as a volunteer, please contact Cristen Kane at (440) 350-5360 or cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov.

READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED DURING AN EMERGENCY?



When disasters and emergencies happen, early warning and notification is crucial. Having a plan in place to alert residents and the tools to disseminate the message could make a difference and save lives. Lake County is very fortunate to have several systems in place that can do just that. In this article, we will discuss the county's Wireless Emergency Notification System. Lake County is prepared to alert our residents should the need arise. Let's take a look at this technology further...

The **Wireless Emergency Notification System**, or **WENS**, is designed to function as a reverse outbound calling system that can also send SMS texts and emails. WENS replaced a similar, but dated, VESTA system in the beginning of 2021. There



are specific criteria (imminent danger, missing persons, etc.) to activate the WENS system during an emergency. The new WENS system allows users to go to reverse911signup.info to navigate to the self-registration portal to sign up to receive emergency notifications by voice call, email or text to any phone number they choose. All residents who subscribe will be notified in the event of a tornado warning issued for Lake County and can also opt-in to receive other National Weather Service warnings.

If you have questions or need more information about Lake County's notification systems, please call 440-350-5499 or e-mail ema@lakecountyohio.gov.

SAFE & SMART DISPOSAL THRU THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

As county residents begin thinking about spring cleanup, the Lake County Department of Utilities, the Ohio State Extension and the Solid Waste District Team are preparing for a full season of special recycling collections. These Special Collections give residents an opportunity to properly dispose of items that might otherwise pollute the environment. All the collections will be held at the Fairgrounds in Painesville Township from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and are specifically for Lake County residents. Items will not be accepted from commercial, business or industrial customers, nor residents from outside of Lake County.

Special Collections include an Electronics Collections on April 24th and August 14th, a Tire Collection on May 1st, a TV Collection on May 8th, a combined TV & Electronics Collection on August 14th and the Household Hazardous Waste Collections on June 5th and September 25th.

For a complete listing of all accepted items and associated fees, please visit <http://bit.ly/2021SPCollections>, refer to social media by searching @LCDUOhio, or call (440) 350-2645 during standard business hours. ■

MEET JOHN PLECNIK

(continued from page 1)

Commissioner Plecnik is also known by his students as Professor Plecnik at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University, where he serves as Director of the

Master of Legal Studies and Associate Professor of Law.

Internationally recognized for his work, Professor Plecnik won the prestigious Bilateral Grant twice from the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, and his research has been cited as authority by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Active in local nonprofits, Commissioner Plecnik volunteers his time as a Board Member for the Slovenian American Cultural Association, and he is a member of St. Vitus Church, North Coast Lions Club, Lake County Retired Teachers Association, and the High Note Society of the National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame just to name a few.

“One of my main priorities is economic development,” said Commissioner Plecnik. “I understand that supporting local business starts local. I also understand the importance of our local government being responsive and accessible to all residents. Please don’t hesitate to personally reach out to me with any questions, thoughts or concerns.” ■

You can contact Commissioner Plecnik at john.plecnik@lakecountyohio.gov or 440-350-2882.





The Lake County
Board of Commissioners
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LC AUDITOR'S OFFICE BEGINS TRIENNIAL UPDATE

Your Lake County Auditor's Office has begun work on the 2021 triennial update of appraised property values. A triennial update involves a study and analysis of sales in the past three years to determine any change in market value since the six-year revaluation (known as a sexennial). This program is designed to update market values and, therefore, to update assessed values.

The triennial update is required by law to equalize values. Ohio Revised Code Section 5715.33 requires the County Auditor revalue all real property every six years, and update those values in the middle of each revaluation cycle or in the third year. In Lake County, the last revaluation was effective for the tax year 2018 and the next update will be completed for tax year 2021 which is payable in 2022. It is not designed to increase or decrease



taxes, but to keep property values up-to-date under current market conditions.

A primary objective of a revaluation is to adjust and equalize property values to reflect changes in the marketplace since the last valuation. Since property values do not change uniformly, some values will go up, some stay the same and some will go down since the last revaluation. Changes in value will vary between neighborhoods. Neighborhood areas for valuing purposes are defined by like housing, type, age, and size.

Other factors, besides variations in market value, may cause a change in valuation. Such factors may be an alteration or change in the property, or new construction not previously reported: new siding, buildings added or removed, interior finish added to basement or garage, new pole building constructed, etc. A change in property use might also dictate a change in valuation; for example, a property use change from residential to commercial.

The triennial update will not require the Auditor's appraisal staff to visit most of the 112,991 parcels in Lake County.

The Auditor's Office will continue to update the public throughout 2021 as we complete the update. ■

COMMISSIONERS APPOINT FUTURE DIRECTOR OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

The Board of Lake County Commissioners announced on December 3, 2020 that they have selected Willoughby resident Suzanne Casar as the next Director of the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services (LCDJFS) after current Director Matthew Battiatto retires in May of 2021. Battiatto worked for Geauga County JFS for 27 years prior to being appointed the Director at Lake County JFS for the past 15 years. "It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Lake and Geauga County for the past 42 years. The programs and services Job and Family Services provides to the community are critical and assist people as they struggle with life's challenges," Battiatto said. "The Commissioners have made a great choice in selecting Suzanne as the next Director of LCDJFS as she has the experience, skills and demeanor to lead and direct this awesome agency." We thank Mr. Battiatto for his years of public service and wish him well on his retirement!



SUZANNE CASAR

Casar has been employed at LCDJFS since 2005 beginning her career as a child protective social worker and was then promoted to the position of Lake County Family and Children First Council Coordinator in 2013. She holds a Masters Degree from Case Western Reserve University and is a Licensed Social Worker in the State of Ohio. Casar is looking forward to working with the Commissioners and is honored that they have selected her for this role. She is grateful to lead an organization that provides critical programs and services to the community. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it more difficult for some of our vulnerable citizens to meet their basic needs and LCDJFS will continue to provide support and assistance as needed. Casar is also looking forward to expanding her relationships with community partners and exploring additional opportunities that will benefit the citizens of our community. ■