



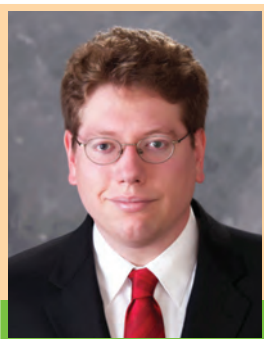
Lake Views

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2 - SUMMER 2021

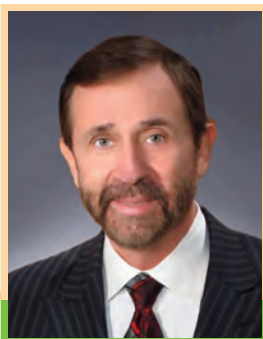
LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECNIK



COMMISSIONER
RON YOUNG

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF "LAKE VIEWS"

First and foremost, we are pleased to report that all Lake County government facilities, under the jurisdiction of the Board of County Commissioners, are now open to walk-in traffic so we look forward to seeing you in person once again! Visitors to 105 Main Street can enter through the main entrance of the new Administration Center or via the automatic doors at the rear (north) entrance near the Auditor's Office. Appointments are no longer necessary; however, you can still

utilize email, regular mail, fax or telephone correspondence to pay utility bills, submit bid documents, apply for building permits and more! As always, we encourage you to visit our website at www.lakecountyohio.gov or call (440) 350-2500 to speak with the appropriate department before you visit.

Here, in our second edition of "Lake Views", you will find articles touching on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, what harmful algal blooms are and how they can be prevented, and

find answers to your most frequently asked questions regarding Job and Family Services. As a Lake County resident, we hope you will find this edition interesting as well as informative and we encourage you to contact our various departments with any questions you may have in regards to these articles.

Our Board of Commissioners extends its sincere wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy end to your summer while you are enjoying all our county has to offer; from the vineyards of the Grand River Valley to the natural resources found in our gardens, parks, and Lake Erie beaches!

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Clerk of Courts plays several vital roles in our criminal justice system, from supporting the Common Pleas Judges to being the keeper of the records for the courts. This puts the Clerk in a unique position to provide the people of

Lake County with the tools they need to have access to justice through digitization of court records and modernization of court processes.

With the grant funding received from the Ohio Supreme Court Technology Grant Program, the Lake County Clerk of Courts office continues to digitize historic records into our e-Services portal. This effort, combined with the

digitization of modern court records, enables the citizens of Lake County to have easier access to historic records and court documents.

Since taking office, one of the Clerk's primary goals has been to accelerate the process of full e-Filing services with the Lake County Common Pleas Court. Already this year, they have taken foreclosure cases to fully electronic with criminal e-Filing

(continued on page 2)

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

(continued from page 1)

nearly complete. They migrated to a better imaging system and their redaction project (which began mid-June) should be complete before the end of summer.

Civil cases are next up to move to e-Filing. They expect to be at full electronic filing by the end of the year with the exception of Domestic Relations. All of these technological improvements will make court processes much more efficient, and the citizens of Lake County will be able to access documents online alleviating the necessity for an in-person visit to the Clerk's Office.

Many of Ohio's 88 counties are fully e-Filing, and they are excited to be able to lead Lake County in this very important endeavor. With these and other projects, Lake County will continue to be on the cutting edge of technological and procedural development in Ohio. For more information, you can contact the Clerk of Courts at: lakecountyohio.gov/coc.

VOTERS TO SEE NEW MACHINES, LOCAL OFFICES, AND ISSUES THIS FALL

After 15 years of service, the Lake County Board of Elections has retired the iVotronic voting machines and will rollout new machines for the November 2, 2021 General Election. The new machines, known as the ExpressVote, are touch-screen machines that produce a paper ballot once the voter has finalized their selections. The printed ballot will provide voters with another opportunity to confirm their choices. Once satisfied, voters will insert the paper ballot into a ballot scanner known as the DS200, which is where their ballot is counted and securely stored for transport back to the elections board.

Registered voters in Lake County are invited to come to the Board of Elections for a free, hands-on voting demonstration using the new machines. The demonstrations, which are available right now, include a "Favorite Things" election which asks voters to choose their favorite U.S. beach, favorite dog breed, and favorite activity to do in their free time along with two thought-provoking yes or no questions related to the election

process. The BOE office, located at 105 Main Street, Suite 107, Painesville, OH 44077, is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

In addition to offering free demonstrations, the Board of Elections will hit the road with the new gear, making stops at the Lake County Fair, public libraries, municipal meetings, and community events throughout the summer months. If you see the Board of Elections out and about this summer, please stop by to discuss and try out the new machines or ask any questions you might have about elections in Lake County.

Speaking of elections, the November 2, 2021 General Election will feature a host of local offices and issues for voters to decide on. Local elections in Lake County are unique in that all candidates will appear on the ballot without party-affiliation (how refreshing, right?). Typically reserved for odd-years, this kind of election year empowers voters to decide who will lead and hold important positions within their community.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

On June 15, 2021, World Elder Abuse Day (WEAAD) was recognized around the world. WEAAD was established by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization in 2006 as a way for communities to raise awareness and promote a better understanding of elder abuse. It is estimated that 1 in 10 older adults are victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation each year; however, many cases go unreported, in part because so many of our communities lack the social supports that would make it easier for those who experience abuse to report it.

Research suggests that as few as 1 in 15 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities.

Locally, the Lake County Commissioners passed a resolution declaring June 15,

2021, Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County. "This is an opportunity for Lake County to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons and raise awareness of elder abuse ensuring





Step 1 of the new voting process: Pictured above is the ExpressVote ballot marking device. Voters will use the touchscreen to make their selections. Once finished, the machine prints a paper ballot containing their votes, allowing the voter an additional opportunity to confirm their selections.

Step 2 of the new voting process: Pictured above is the DS200 ballot scanner. This is where the printed paper ballot will be inserted by the voter for counting and secure storage.

All of Lake County's cities, with the exception of Willowick, will have at least one city council contest to decide in November. Voters in the cities of Eastlake, Wickliffe, and Willoughby will also see the office of mayor on the ballot. For voters residing in any one of the county's nine villages, elections for member of village council will be conducted while township voters will elect 2 of their 3 township trustees. Last, but certainly not least, all voters will elect members to their local school district board of education. The General Election filing deadline for candidates and local questions and issues is Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

security and dignity for all seniors," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck, president of the Board of Lake County Commissioners.

In general, elder abuse is a term referring to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. "Lake County is not immune to the issue of elder abuse," said Commissioner John Plecnik. "When we come together, we can prevent elder abuse from happening. We can put support services in place, and direct the necessary community resources."

As a community, it is important that we learn the signs of potential elder abuse

Once the Board of Elections certifies candidates and issues for the General Election ballot, the list of candidates and issues will be available on the Board of Elections' website at www.lakecountyohio.gov/boe.

The Board of Elections is excited for Lake Countians to try out the new voting equipment and vote in the November 2, 2021, General Election. Visit www.voteohio.gov to update your address or register to vote online, or visit the BOE in-person at their office in downtown Painesville. The voter registration deadline for the fall election is October 4.

and speak up for those who may not be able to do so. "Elder abuse is a crime. If you see something, say something," said Commissioner Ron Young. "This is a good reminder to check in with your older neighbors, family members, and friends to see how they are doing and if there is anything they need."

If you suspect that an older adult may be abused, neglected, or exploited, please contact the Lake County Adult Protective Services at (440) 350-4000, option 1. Reports can be made 24-hours a day. You can also reach our Senior Services Coordinator, Alyea Barajas, Mon-Fri at (440) 350-2748 for questions on senior services.

DID YOU KNOW? Facts for JFS

Q What is the responsibility of the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services (LCDJFS)?

A LCDJFS is to provide public assistance, child and adult protective services, child support enforcement and employment and training programs to the citizens of Lake County in a manner that recognizes and preserves individual rights, responsibilities and dignity so that families, children and adults are able to restore, maintain or improve their capabilities for self-support and family life.

Q Who can I call if I have a question about my public assistance benefits?

A To report changes or if you have a question about your public assistance benefits, please contact our local LCDJFS customer service line at 440-350-4011 from 8 AM – 12 PM and 1 PM – 4:15 PM Monday - Friday to speak directly with a case worker about your situation.

Q What should I do if I suspect that a child or senior citizen in Lake County is being abused, neglected or exploited?

A To report suspected child or elder abuse, please contact the 24-Hour child and elder abuse hotline at 440-350-4000 and press 1. A social worker will be able to assist you in taking a report.

Q I am interested in becoming a foster parent in Lake County, what should I do next?

A The Children Services Division recruits and certifies foster care homes and provides adoption services for the children in our custody. There is a great need for foster homes in Lake County. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a foster parent, please contact our agency at 440-350-4218 for more information.

Q I would like to find employment in Lake County, are there any resources to help me in my search?

A Yes, the Ohio Means Jobs (OMJ) Center located inside LCDJFS can assist you in your job search! OMJ Lake County provides employment service counselors to provide you with job search assistance, resume and cover letter assistance, interviewing assistance, interest and skill review, and tutorials to learn computer skills and software. For those that meet certain criteria, there are training dollars available for in-demand careers. The Lake County OMJ staff also work with employers to fill vacant positions. For more

(continued on page 4)

WHAT IS A HAB?

Have you heard of the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) in Lake Erie? HAB, caused by cyanobacteria, turns the lake to the color of pea-green soup. The bloom often appears first in the western basin of Lake Erie, where the water is shallow and warm. If the weather, water temperature, and amount of nutrients are just right elsewhere in the lake, the bloom can appear. The algal bloom can be harmful to your health if you swim in or ingest the water. Boating or jet skiing through a bloom can aerosolize the toxins and they can be inhaled, causing sickness. If exposed to the toxins, symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, kidney toxicity, hives, weakness, allergies, sore throat, numbness, dizziness, difficulty breathing, rashes, and a runny nose. Oftentimes, a HAB

can be found in smaller inland waters and can still be dangerous to your health. Not only should you stay out of the water if a bloom is present, but also keep pets from swimming to prevent sickness.

Various local colleges and agencies monitor the lake conditions and nutrients entering Lake Erie to predict when a HAB may occur and how large and where the bloom may be. A predictive model is done by NOAA and can be found at Lake Erie HAB Forecast. For more information on how a bloom could affect your health, visit the Ohio Department of Health's web page. If you think a bloom might be present in Lake Erie or a different inland water, you can report the bloom to Ohio EPA by submitting a complaint. Early predictions by NOAA are showing a smaller than average HAB in the western basin of Lake Erie, but cyanobacteria has already been detected in Sandusky Bay.

Did you know that you can help prevent the HAB this summer? The cyanobacteria feed off nutrients in the water, specifically phosphorus. The nutrients wash into the lake from fertilizer, sewage, pet waste, and yard waste. Remember, anything that flows into a storm drain will flow directly to Lake Erie, untreated!



"A commercial fishing boat through a HAB in Sandusky Bay on September 27, 2019. A HAB in Lake Erie looks like spilled green paint and can potentially produce toxins that can even be inhaled in sea spray (www.chicagotribune.com)."

THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP KEEP NUTRIENTS OUT OF LAKE ERIE AND HELP TO PREVENT A HAB:

Properly dispose of any leaves, branches, and grass clippings. Never dump yard waste at the banks of streams or in a storm drain.

The best time to fertilize your lawn is in the fall. If you do fertilize, only use the necessary amount and apply it according to the instructions on the label. Sweep up any fertilizer that lands on the driveway, sidewalk, or roadway.

Ensure all your household wastewater plumbing is properly connected to your septic

system or the sanitary sewer. If you have a septic system, ensure that it is functioning properly and not discharging sewage to the surface of the ground or a nearby waterway.

Pick up after your pets frequently and discard pet waste in the trash.

We can all do our part to prevent a HAB in Lake Erie and protect this great resource. For more information, contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Dept. at www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd.

Facts for JFS

(continued from page 3)

information, please contact 440-350-4000 and choose option 3 if you are a job seeker or 4 if you are an employer.

Q: I need to speak with someone about a new or ongoing child support case, what should I do next?

A: You can contact us by telephone at 440-350-4000 or log into the state customer service web portal at <https://jfs.ohio.gov/Ocs/CustServWebPortalWelcome2.stm> which provides online access to send a message to a case manager, report changes, and view/print case and payment information. The child support division assists families and children in meeting their diverse child support and other related needs in order to promote self-reliance, family stability, and child safety.