



# Lake Views

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 - WINTER 2023

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

## A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW FACES

In this edition of “Lake Views”, our “Community Spotlight” features Fairport Harbor and it highlights some current and future projects that are in the pipeline for them (see Pg2). We also welcome Caroline Petersen, the new Director of our GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Department, who explains some of the available technology they utilize to provide information on property and land records. If you’re interested in backyard conservation and watershed management, make sure you read the article from our Soil & Water Conservation District on Pg 3. They provide leadership and expertise regarding the protection of our county’s unique soil and water resources. Also, as much as we hate to admit it, the cold weather has settled in and it can bring about some

powerful winter storms. These storms, including blizzards, can include extreme cold,

freezing rain, snow, ice, and high winds so for more information on how you can prepare, make sure to visit [ready.gov/winter-weather](http://ready.gov/winter-weather).

Our first newsletter of 2023 also brings about a few changes to the Board. On November 8th of 2022, voters elected John Plecnik (who had vacated an unexpired seat) to a new full four-year term along with a new addition to our Board, former Mayor of Willowick, Richard Regovich. To familiarize yourself with Commissioner Regovich, we have included an article



COMMISSIONER / President  
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER  
JOHN PLECNIK



COMMISSIONER  
RICHARD REGOVICH

below. The Board of Commissioners also bid farewell to Commissioner Mark Tyler as he finished out his term on December 31st. In his short time here, he was instrumental in bringing the “Kirtland Old Town Sewer Project” to fruition and he was an active participant in the “Hostile Action Based Emergency Preparedness Exercise” for the Energy Harbor Perry Nuclear Power Plant; a culmination of over 18 months of planning by both public and private agencies. We wish Mark nothing but the very best as he will be missed! ■

## RICHARD J. REGOVICH BECOMES LAKE COUNTY'S 81ST COMMISSIONER



Judge John P. O'Donnell administers oath to new Commissioner Richard Regovich while his wife, Lynn, looks on.

On November 29th 2022, Richard J. Regovich was sworn in by Lake County Common Pleas Court Judge John P. O'Donnell as 81st Commissioner. Regovich won a contested primary in May and overwhelmingly won the November election. The seat he now holds is for an unexpired term ending January 1st of 2025.

Commissioner Regovich was born and

raised in Willowick where he attended Lakeland Community College upon his graduation from the Willoughby-Eastlake school system. He has been married to his wife, Lynn, for thirty-three years and has two children; Brian (currently enrolled in graduate school at Baldwin Wallace University), and Lizzie (who currently attends the University of Mount Union). For the last six years, he held the office of Mayor of Willowick and Safety

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## RICHARD REGOVICH

Director in addition to serving as Ward I Councilman.

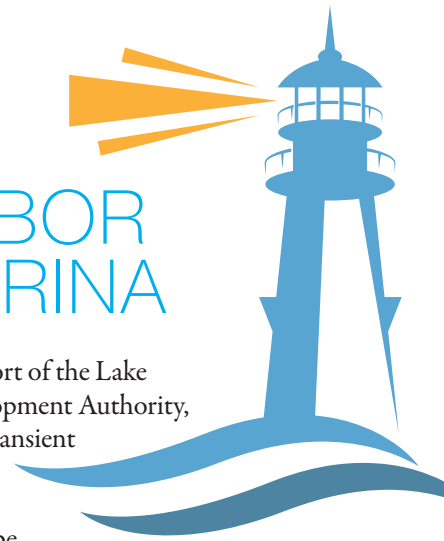
Lake County Commissioners Board President, John Hamercheck, noted how he is looking forward to the knowledge Regovich will bring to this new position asserting, "Rich has been an excellent mayor, worked diligently, and served the community with fidelity, which is something I look to as a true testament of someone's character." During his time in Willowick, he established "Hearts and Hammers"; a nonprofit organization consisting of volunteers assisting homeowners with much-needed safety repairs. He has also enjoyed volunteering at local community events and serving on the Willowick Planning Commission as well as the Willowick Charter Review Committee.

Commissioner Regovich's last day as Mayor was November 28th which he described as bittersweet reflecting, "My love for Willowick is true and genuine. I grew up here, raised my kids here, and I intend on staying. The appreciation and honor it's been to serve as mayor – I got to work with so many good people in the city who are dedicated, from council all the way to the employees in the city." Former Commissioner Mark Tyler added, "Rich's continued service to others will make an impactful difference to Lake County. The opportunities to benefit our residents are endless."

At his first official meeting as Commissioner, Regovich addressed his intent to bring the same drive and determination to Lake County stating, "I worked hard for your vote; I will work hard to keep it. Thank you for the chance to serve this wonderful county of great people. Together, we will move forward." ■

## LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

# FAIRPORT HARBOR TRANSIENT MARINA



The Village of Fairport Harbor, with the support of the Lake County Commissioners and the Lake Development Authority, are working on the construction of a full-service transient marina at the site of Fairport Harbor Port Authority's boat ramps and nearby properties at the north end of Water Street. The marina will be tailored to attract boaters from outside of Lake County for stays typically ranging from a day to two weeks and not compete with local marinas in the county that serve long-term tenants. This project is intended to encourage boaters to dock their water crafts and venture into Fairport Harbor's downtown area helping to bolster the economy. MSA Professional Services, a consulting firm specializing in areas such as architecture, engineering and planning, has been contracted to perform a variety of duties in preparation for marina construction. MSA has completed the following assignments to date: **survey and bathymetry work, soil borings and a local wave study as well as initial breakwater sizing and armor stone design.**

The Lake Development Authority is managing the development process and securing funding for all stages of the project. Estimated cost of the overall project is \$14 million. Proposed features of the site are expected to include the following:

- **Between 50 and 80 new slips to accommodate various sizes of boats.**
- **New breakwater to better protect the harbor from wave and ice action.**
- **A dock for Ohio Department of Natural Resources research vessels and some of the department's smaller boats.**
- **An area for "pop-up" stores to sell food, drinks and other items.**
- **Amenities such as a restroom/shower building, fish-cleaning station and fuel-dock.**
- **Additional improvements include expanded vehicle and trailer parking.**



Fairport Harbor is unique in having both a lakefront and a riverfront, a historic downtown storefront district, and a beach which attracts over 300,000 visitors per year. In addition, Lake Metroparks is working to construct a 2.5 mile lakefront trail from Painesville Township to Fairport Harbor. Together, these projects will transform the lakefront into a destination that will drive economic energy for all of Lake County and throughout Northeast Ohio. ■



# LAKE COUNTY G.I.S. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Are you interested in land? Or researching your property lines? Maybe you just bought a house. You probably searched online and chances are you arrived at Lake Navigator, Lake County's official website for the most accurate information on property and land records with over 1,000 visitors per day. This is the Lake County G.I.S. Department in action and trust us when we say it doesn't end there. G.I.S. stands for Geographic Information Systems – which encompasses a field of technology used to store, visualize, analyze and interpret geographic data.

The Lake County G.I.S. Department utilizes technology to create, collect, and share data in a "spatial" way. They manage the county's database of parcels, roads, and addresses, and they also develop tools for interacting with spatial data. Just look at the Lake Navigator feature called "Street Smart"; a land records tool that allows users to see high-resolution street level photos across the county – far better than Google Maps. Another example is their Sales Dashboard,

featured on the Auditor's Website, that allows users to review sales data for individual properties and averages for a community or school district.

Director Caroline Petersen, who started in August 2022, previously served as the GIS Coordinator for Ashtabula County. During her time there, she expanded GIS involvement and hopes to bring the same energy to Lake County. "I thank the GIS Board for this opportunity; serving Lake County is an enormous honor", said Petersen. Since 1999, the GIS Department has played an integral role in the community while operating in

the background and in 2004, they won the State's "Best Practices Award". Today, the department has grown to provide support to departments like the Emergency Management Agency, Stormwater, Utilities, Health Department, Sheriff,

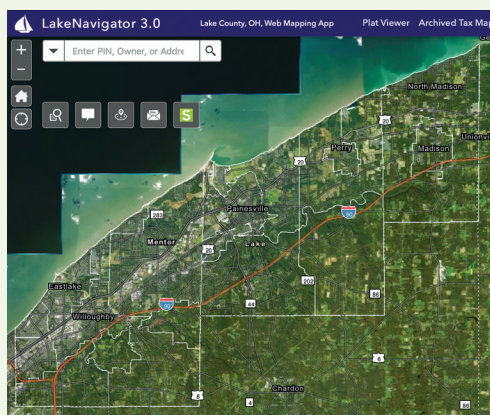
Auditor, Tax Map and various municipalities throughout the County.

Petersen dedicates the department's success to previous Director Jim Branch and the staff who have been instrumental in building



partnerships and promoting the program. "I am very gracious for Ryan Barshick and David Phares. I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with," said Petersen. David Phares created the Security Camera Registration and Mapping ("S.C.R.A.M.") Program; a voluntary program allowing residents and businesses to register their security camera information with their local police departments. Ryan Barshick is preparing for the launch of the Lake County GIS Hub; a project that will connect the community to the massive amount of data encompassed in Lake County in new and exciting ways.

Moving forward, Petersen wants to offer more GIS services such as hosting workshops, software accessibility, mobile friendly applications, and launching the open data hub. "The Lake County GIS Hub will be a landmark for sharing data and new applications across the County", Petersen added. Her goal is to advocate for the wider adoption of GIS as a decision-making tool leading the way for the county as technology advances. Anyone interested in learning more about geographical data can visit [lakecountyohio.gov/GIS](http://lakecountyohio.gov/GIS) or call them at (440) 350-5970. ■



## 2023 COUNTY OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES



- First day of January (**Monday, January 2, 2023**), New Year's Day observed
- Third Monday in January (**January 16**), Martin Luther King Day
- Third Monday in February (**February 20**), Presidents Day
- Last Monday in May (**May 29**), Memorial Day
- Nineteenth day of June (**Monday, June 19**), Juneteenth
- Fourth of July (**Tuesday, July 4**), Independence Day
- First Monday in September (**September 4**), Labor Day
- Second Monday in October (**October 9**), Columbus Day
- Eleventh day of November (**Friday, November 10**), Veterans' Day observed
- Fourth Thursday in November (**November 23**), Thanksgiving Day
- Friday after Thanksgiving Day (**November 24**)
- Twenty-fifth day of December (**Monday, December 25**), Christmas Day





The Lake County  
Board of Commissioners  
105 Main Street  
Painesville, OH 44077

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## WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE LAKE COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

The Lake County General Health District (LCGHD) is pleased to serve Lake County through programs and services that are both seasonal and year-round. Two year-round programs that are particularly important during high-travel times and winter months are the Car Seat program and the Food Safety Program.

### Car Seat Program

LCGHD provides car seats to income-eligible families living in Lake County. This program's main goal is to increase the availability and access of child safety seats to families who are unable to afford car seats, and to encourage the correct installation and proper use of car seats.



To receive a car seat, the parent/legal caregiver must attend an educational class provided by an LCGHD employee who has successfully completed training and received their Certified Passenger Safety Technician (CPST). Although the car seat is only provided to the parent/legal caregiver, anyone using the seat is welcome to attend the class to receive education as well. Please note that car seat distribution and education is by appointment only and while supplies last.

To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Show proof of Lake County residency.
- Meet WIC income guidelines (Note: an individual is not required to participate in the WIC Program) and must provide proof of income eligibility.
- Have a vehicle present to install the car seat. Installation is required for the program. It is not required to have your own vehicle; you may use the vehicle of a family member or friend.

For more information or to sign up for the educational class, please contact Yolanda Mercado at (440) 350-2554 or email her at [ymercado@lcghd.org](mailto:ymercado@lcghd.org).



**Lake County**  
**General Health District**  
**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

### Food Safety

Did you know that LCGHD is responsible for the inspection of over 1,400 food service operations (FSO) and retail food establishments (RFE)? The Food Safety Program focuses on protecting the community against foodborne illnesses resulting from health code violations and improper handling of food. Some examples of FSO are restaurants and school kitchens. RFE include convenience stores, pizza shops, and grocery stores.

Activities within the Food Safety Program:

- License all food service operations and food establishments
- Investigate foodborne illnesses and reports of contaminated food
- Provide food safety education and training and more!

The services, education, and resources the program provides are especially useful during extreme weather that might cause power outages. According to the CDC, here are some tips to keep in mind regarding food safety after a power outage:

- If you have doubts about the safety of your food, throw it out
- If you have gone at least 4 hours without power, throw out perishable food
- If food is unusual in color, odor, or texture, throw it out



If you have concerns of illness or questions about food handling and safety, please contact LCGHD at (440) 350-2543 or email [webmaster@lcghd.org](mailto:webmaster@lcghd.org).

For more information about other services and programs at LCGHD, visit [www.lcghd.org](http://www.lcghd.org) or call (440) 350-2543 with any questions you may have.