



Lake Views

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1 - WINTER 2024

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Well, Hello Lake County and Hello Winter! It's that time of year again, when fluffy white snow begins to fall from the sky! And while it may be beautiful to observe, there are some health and safety issues to consider. Cold temperatures constrict our blood vessels which can result in shallow breathing and a slight thickening of the blood. When shoveling, we recommend wearing loose fitting, lightweight, warm layers instead of one heavy layer of clothing and don't forget to take breaks as these cold temperatures combined with overexertion can result in a heart attack.

Also, the holiday season has arrived and when it comes to toys and gift giving, the excitement to give children their favorite toys can cause us to overlook

certain factors regarding the safety and age range of a toy. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind.

- Before purchasing, inspect all toys for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied with applicable protective gear
- Look for labels that assure you the toy has passed safety inspections
- And lastly, do not give toys with small parts to young children as they could pose a choking hazard.



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER
RICHARD REGOVICH

These tips will ensure that you and your family have a happy and SAFE holiday season!

Our first newsletter for 2024 also brings about a few reminders: All county offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25th and Monday, Jan. 1st in observance of Christmas and New Years. The full list of 2024 county closings can be found in this issue on pg 4.

Finally, we wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday and winter season shared with family and friends! ■

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Travel Eastern Lake County and you will find Perry Township, one of Lake County's little-known gems. Founded on July 1, 1815 and named after Commodore Oliver Perry, the Township is bordered by Lake Erie on the North and the Grand River on the South.

Perry Township encompasses nearly 18 square miles with a population of just over 6,000. It is unique in that it is home to two incorporated villages: Perry Village (population 1,602) and North Perry Village (population 915). It is frequently identified by the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, virtually all of which is located in North Perry Village. Perry is also home to the Perry Local School District, one of Ohio's few 5-Star rated school systems. Perry Township has the 2nd lowest tax rate overall in Lake County but that is not reflected in the quality of services in the community.

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Launched in 2020, Lifeline's Lake County Imagination Library is an affiliate of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio and the international Dolly Parton Imagination Library. In an effort to improve kindergarten readiness, instill a love of learning, and bolster literacy rates, the program provides one new book mailed to enrolled children under the age of 5 at no charge to the family each month. Lifeline actively outreaches and enrolls new children and then each month places the book order for all of the kids. Currently, over 6,700 Lake County children receive a new book each month courtesy of Lifeline's Lake County's Imagination Library.

LAKE COUNTY'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

According to the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, developing literacy begins at birth. By the age of three, a child's brain is already 80% developed and by the time a child enters kindergarten, they must already know thousands of words in order to succeed in the classroom. The best way to do that? Reading aloud and giving them access to books. Research has shown that a child with at least 25 books in their home complete an average of two additional years of schooling compared to their peers without books at home. Through participation in the Imagination Library, our goal at Lifeline is every Lake County child has the opportunity to build a home library with dozens of books.

Although this program is free to all participating families, it's not free to the community. Here in Lake County, Lifeline manages and financially supports the program at the local level. Lifeline's Lake County Imagination Library splits

the cost of each book with the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio. Lifeline's Lake County Imagination Library is generously supported by the United Way of Lake County, the Western Reserve Junior Service League and through many private donors.



If you would like to register a 0-5 year old child to receive a monthly book, or if you would like to sponsor a child's participation in the program, please visit www.lclifeline.org/imagination-library or call 440-354-2148. A gift of just \$25 to the Imagination Library will sponsor two children to receive books for an entire year! ■

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: PERRY TWP. *Continued from page 1*

Parks are plentiful along the many scenic waterways managed by the local entities and Lake MetroParks adding considerable quality of life for Perry and Lake County residents. Perry's Community and Senior Center overlooks Lake Erie and provides some of mother nature's most beautiful sunsets. The center is bustling with

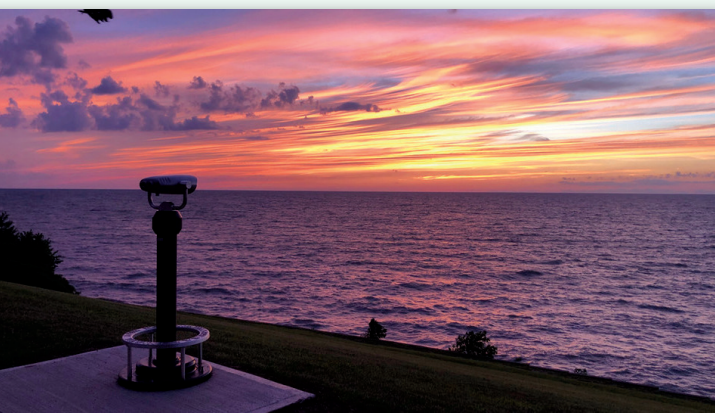
senior activities during the weekdays and is available for special occasions and events on the weekends.

Perry Township's cemetery is a coveted resting place for residents and non-residents throughout Northeast Ohio. Families frequently choose this cemetery for their loved ones due to its historic nature, large trees, relatively liberal policy for markers and decorations, and its storied tradition of being well-kept.

Perry was once considered the nursery capital of the United States and is considered by most to be a bedroom community. Horticulture and agriculture continue to have a considerable presence in the Township but there is

also significant industrial activity along the Shepard Road corridor.

Perry Township maintains a rigid zoning code. The strategic nature of the current code is to allow controlled residential growth and to attract new business and industry. Much of the vacant land at the north end of the township is part of Perry's Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) and it is growing with the addition of a number of small businesses and clean industries with a significant number of jobs. Perry's JEDD encompasses nearly 1,000 acres with the primary objective of attracting new business and related revenues to offset the tax base lost primarily from the continuing devaluation of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. Progress continues, albeit slowly, as infrastructure improvements are made. ■





THE LAKE COUNTY PROBATE COURT



The Lake County Probate Court is a separate division of the Lake County Court of Common Pleas. It is located on the first floor of the West Annex to the main courthouse at 25 North Park Place on the square in downtown Painesville. Probate Judge Mark J. Bartolotta has been on the bench for over ten years. In addition to his duties as judge, he also serves as Clerk of Court of the Probate Court. His staff consists of two Magistrates, the Court Administrator/Chief Deputy Clerk, a Bailiff, and eleven Deputy Clerks, who are all very dedicated to serving the citizens of Lake County.

One of the accomplishments Judge Bartolotta is most proud of during his tenure has been the establishment of the Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP) utilized by the Court. In guardianship proceedings where there are no family members, friends, or other responsible individuals who are willing and suitable to serve as guardian of persons who are unable to care for themselves, the Court now has the VGP to fulfill that important roll. Administered by the social services agency, Lifeline, Inc., the VGP serves

as guardian for those who, in the past, had no one else to do so. Now, the most vulnerable of our citizens have the services of staff and volunteers of the VGP to help care for them when they can't care for themselves. Even here in Lake County, the need for such a program is great and is always increasing. Its importance cannot be overstated.

One of the recent projects of the Probate Court has been to update its computerized Case Management System (CSM) which was over thirty years old and severely outdated. Thanks to grants secured by the Court Administrator and funds raised by court user fees, the project that had been two years in the making has recently been finalized. Uploading of thousands of old case files into the new system and training of staff has been completed and the new CSM is officially up and running! Key components that will be available include E-Filing, Electronic Document Management, E-Signature capabilities, Web Based Public Access to Court Records and the images of documents associated with the record, and the ability to make E-Payments.

As always, Judge Bartolotta and his staff are proud to serve the citizens of Lake County. Feel free to stop by the court to see what we're doing and how we can assist you! ■

The Probate Court is charged with performing over 200 different statutory duties under its jurisdiction pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code including but not limited to:

- Adoptions (minor, adult & foreign)
- Correction of Birth Records
- Civil Commitments
- Civil Proceedings
- Conservatorships
- Disinterments
- Eminent Domain Cases
- Estate Administration
- Guardianships (minor and adult)
- Marriage Licenses
- Minor Settlements
- Name Changes (minor and adult)
- Trusts
- Wrongful Death/Survivor Settlements
- Will Deposits

... and many, many more!

SENSIBLE SALTING TIPS



Salt Use Impacts Lake Erie

What's the problem with road salt? Too much salt in anyone's diet is bad for their health and that includes Lake Erie. Many of us get our drinking water from the lake and we need to consider what we put into it. Stormwater flows directly to Lake Erie, untreated. That means anything we put on the ground will end up in Lake Erie when snow melts. In the 2017 Clear Roads Survey, Ohio Ranked #3 in road salt use by applying 1.526 billion pounds of salt!

Most freshwater plants and animals tolerate only very low amounts of salts, and they can sicken or even die when these ranges are exceeded. Although salts occur naturally, human activities can increase salts to beyond the range tolerated by freshwater aquatic life. At higher salt levels, water becomes unusable for drinking, crop irrigation, livestock watering, and manufacturing. There is already an impact on drinking

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

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SENSIBLE SALTING *(continued from page 3)*

water supplies and some areas of the country are seeing chloride levels in drinking water above the standard level. Once in a waterway, excess salt is very difficult to remove. Preventing salt from entering water in the first place is the best management strategy. **

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Before applying any salt, shovel away as much snow as possible and chip away any ice.
- Use as little salt as possible. Look for application instructions on the bag to see how much is needed. Use a hand-held or walk behind spreader for application. Use 1/4 cup to 1/2 cup per square yard.
- Sweep up any excess or spilled salt left over on the pavement after a storm event.
- Consider using rock salt alternatives that are more environmentally friendly such as ice melt containing magnesium chloride, potassium acetate, calcium chloride, calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), or potassium chloride. Alternatives are available at your neighborhood do-it-yourself store.
- Look for "pet friendly" ice melt. These are often more environmentally friendly, too.
- Use sand with deicers for better traction.
- If using a contracted company, discuss with them that you want salt to be applied sensibly.

For more information, contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department at (440) 350-5900 or www.lakecountyohio.gov/smd. To report an illicit discharge to stormwater, contact the Lake County General Health District at (440) 350-2543. ■

***(doc. no. EPA841-R-12-104, October 2012)*

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

APPLICATION FOR 2024 LAKE COUNTY DOG LICENSE

(Ohio Law Requires) All Dogs 3 Mo. Of Age And Older Are Required To Be Licensed Annually.

Application Fee-\$20.00 Per Dog-Due By January 31, 2024 • License Expires January 31, 2025

AGE YRS • MOS	SEX M/F	SPAYED/ NEUTERED	COLOR	HAIR LONG MEDIUM SHORT	BREED OF DOG	FEE PAID	PENALTY	DOG'S CALL NAME	NEW LICENSE NUMBER
/									
/									
/									

Go To www.doglicense.us/oh/ lake to purchase online or make check payable to Lake County Treasurer and return to Lake County Auditor 105 Main St., P.O.Box 480, Painesville, Ohio 44077
<http://www.doglicense.us/oh/Lake/>

Dog License Purchased after January 31st Doubles In Price Under Ohio Law.

Dog Owners Who Fail To License Their Dog Are Subject To A \$250 Fine Plus Court Costs.

For More Information Call 440-350-2641

NAME _____
(Please print full and last name)
HOME ADDRESS _____ / P.O. BOX _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
TELEPHONE () _____
SIGNATURE _____



2024 County Office Closures

New Years Day
MONDAY, JANUARY 1

Martin Luther King Day
MONDAY, JANUARY 15

Presidents Day
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Memorial Day
MONDAY, MAY 27

Juneteenth
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

Independence Day
THURSDAY, JULY 4

Labor Day
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Columbus Day
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Veterans Day
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Thanksgiving Day
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Friday after Thanksgiving Day
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Christmas Eve
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Day
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25