



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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County Contact: Summer Torok
440.350.2220
summer.torok@lakecountyohio.gov

Commissioners Honor the Lake County Captains with the 2nd Key to the County

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, November 26, 2024— At today's Commissioners' meeting, the Board presented the Lake County Captains with the 2nd *Key to Lake County* to recognize their great accomplishment of becoming the 2024 Midwest League Champions.

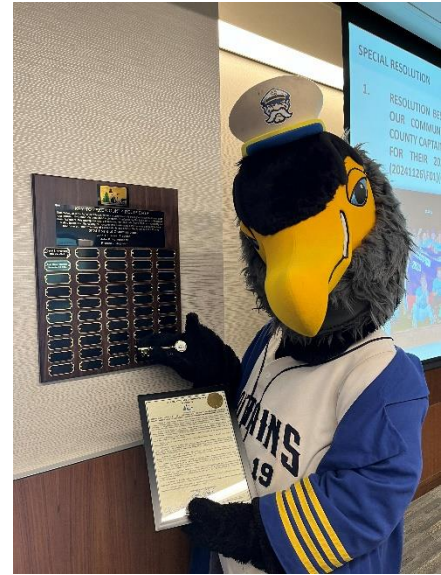
The Board of Lake County Commissioners established the *Key to Lake County* program. For so long as Lake County persists, the *Key to Lake County* shall be our community's highest honor and most prestigious award. It shall be presented by the Lake County Board of Commissioners and given very selectively to honor an individual or organization who has made extraordinary and significant accomplishments and contributions to Lake County.

The Captains (77-53) triumphed over the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (77-54) with a 9-4 victory, marking a sensational conclusion to an exciting championship series. Commissioner John Plecnik and Commissioner Richard Regovich were honored to be in attendance for the final winning game.

The 2024 First Overall MLB Draft Pick Travis Bazzana is the first in Cleveland franchise history and he began his minor league career this season with the Lake County Captains. The Captains talented lineup featured three players who drove in runs in the title-winning game; Ralph Velazquez hit a three-run homer in the sixth inning, and Travis Bazzana and Angel Genao plated runners with singles in the eighth inning.

Four Captains were named 2024 Midwest League All-Stars; Catcher Cooper Ingle, MLB Pipeline's No. 13 Cleveland prospect, Shortstop Angel Genao, MLB Pipeline's No. 5 Cleveland and No. 87 Cleveland prospect and Right-Handed Pitcher Austin Peterson, and Left-Handed Pitcher Matt Wilkinson, MLB Pipeline's No. 29 Cleveland prospect, were each honored for their efforts this year.

"Today, we celebrate not just the impressive championship victory of the Lake County Captains, but the spirit of our entire community that rallied behind them. Their triumph represents our shared pride and determination, making them more than deserving of the Key to Lake County," said Commission President, John T. Plecnik.



1 Lake County Captains Mascot, Horatio holding the Key to the County

Commissioner John T. Plecnik proposed the *Key to Lake County* program with the support of Commissioner John R. Hamercheck and Richard J. Regovich. The *Key to Lake County* will only be awarded after unanimous consent of the Lake County Board of Commissioners.

"The Lake County Captains are so grateful to call Lake County home. We are so appreciative of the support from our Lake County Commissioners and fanbase. The Captains team and staff has enjoyed sharing the 2024 Midwest League Championship with the entire community and are filled with gratitude to receive the honor of being awarded a Key to the County," said Lake County Captains General Manager, Jen Yorke."

"As we present the Key to Lake County to the Captains, we honor their commitment to excellence and their vital role in enriching our community. Their success is a reflection of the support from our fans and all of Lake County, and we look forward to many more seasons of shared victories," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"The Lake County Captains have not only brought home the Midwest League Championship but have also exemplified the values of teamwork, dedication, and excellence. This Key to the County is a testament to their extraordinary achievements and an inspiration for every resident of Lake County," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.

"Receiving the Key to the County is an incredible honor for the Lake County Captains. This recognition is for our entire community—our fans, players, staff, and everyone who makes this team what it is. We're proud to represent Lake County and will keep striving to make the Captains the pride of Northeast Ohio," said Alan Miller, Owner and President of the Lake County Captains.

The Lake County Captains are the most deserving as the second recipient of the *Key to Lake County*. The Lake County Captains 2024 achievements and positive impact on our county make them an admirable recipient of this prestigious accolade. We congratulate the Lake County Captains on this well-earned recognition.

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See below for photos.



2 From the left: Morgan Mattimore, Joey Blair, Andris Kampe, Jen Yorke, Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Horatio, Commissioners Richard J. Regovich, John R. Hamercheck and Allison Howard.



3 From the left: Joey Blair, Andris Kampe, Jen Yorke, Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Horatio, Commissioners Richard J. Regovich and John R. Hamercheck.



4 Horatio celebrating receiving the Key to the County.