



# Board of Commissioners

## PRESS RELEASE

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### New Flag Retirement Boxes Established in Administration Center Lobby

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, December 3, 2024— The Commissioners' Office is excited to announce the installation of new Flag Retirement Boxes in the lobby of the Administrative Center, located at 105 Main St., Painesville, Ohio 44077. This initiative is made possible through the efforts of Paul Bernardo, a dedicated 9th grader and member of Scout Troop 165 / Zion Lutheran Church in Painesville.

Paul has recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which focuses on providing a respectful and responsible way for community members to dispose of worn or damaged American flags. This initiative demonstrates not only his commitment to service but also reinforces our community's values of respect and patriotism.

The Flag Retirement Boxes are designed to ensure that flags are disposed of in accordance with proper protocols, allowing residents to honor their national symbol. The installation of these boxes in a public space like the lobby of the Administration Center makes it easier for community members to access them and participate in this important act of respect.

"I am grateful to Lake County veterans, community leaders, and my scout troop and family for all the support of my Eagle Scout project to respect our flag," said Paul Bernardo.

"We are thrilled to have these Flag Retirement Boxes available for our community," said Commission President John T. Plecnik. "Paul's Eagle Scout project highlights the significance of honoring our nation's symbols, and we commend his hard work and leadership in making this possible."

"This project not only serves a practical purpose but also instills a sense of pride in our community. It encourages our residents to reflect on the sacrifices made for our freedom and to treat our national flag with the dignity it deserves," said Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

"Projects like Paul's remind us all of the importance of civic responsibility. We hope that this inspires other young people in our community to take an active role in honoring our country and its values," said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich.



*Paul with the Flag Retirement Boxes he built for his Eagle Scout Project.*

These boxes will provide a straightforward and dignified option for flag disposal, allowing locals to dispose of their flags with honor. Paul also took the initiative to educate his fellow Scouts and community members about flag etiquette and the proper methods for flag retirement.

The Commissioners' Office encourages all residents to utilize these boxes and to take a moment to reflect on the values that the American flag represents.

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