



# Lake Views

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 - FALL 2023

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

## FALL IN LOVE with LAKE COUNTY

Hello Lake County! It's that time of year again; time to fall in love with Lake County!

With over 60 miles of carefully conserved trails and over 35 community parks and waterways, make sure to take time out to enjoy the breathtaking fall color our county has to offer. Unfortunately, fall also means it's time to get out our rakes and leaf blowers. Please keep in mind, don't blow leaves to the curb or dump them near storm drains or at the banks of streams. Yard waste can clog sewers which can lead to stormwater backups and even flooding! If you're dreading fall cleanup, consider mulching your yard instead; just remember once you have finished to blow any grass clippings off the roadway and sidewalks. Mulched leaves have several benefits from

preventing soil erosion to suppressing weeds and they are packed with nutrients that can make great fertilizer for your lawn. You can even apply a 2-3 inch layer of them around your plants to help keep them healthy during the upcoming cold. Also, as we approach the fall time change, now would be the perfect time to consider falling into a healthy new routine! Not getting enough physical activity can put you at risk for heart disease or a stroke. Don't have a lot of time? Even a short 30 minute walk per day can increase cardiovascular fitness,



COMMISSIONER / President  
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER  
JOHN PLECNIK



COMMISSIONER  
RICHARD REGOVICH

strengthen bones, and reduce body fat. So go enjoy these remaining autumn days because better health leads to a better tomorrow!

A final reminder: All county offices will be closed Friday November 10th in recognition of Veterans Day. They will also be closed Thursday November 23rd and Friday November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving. Finally, we wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday shared with family and friends! ■

## LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



### KIRTLAND CITY OF FAITH AND BEAUTY

When Ohio was granted statehood in 1803, Kirtland was originally part of Trumbull County. As boundaries were redrawn, and after a short residence

in Geauga County, the newly formed Lake County claimed Kirtland as their own in the late 1840s. Situated in the southeast corner of the

county, the "City of Faith and Beauty" boasts nearly seventeen square miles and almost 7,000 residents. Kirtland's "Beauty" is anchored by the rolling hills of both

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# NEW “ARE YOU OK” PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Lifeline, Inc. recently announced the launch of its new “Are You OK” program, in partnership with the Board of Lake County Commissioners. The “Are You OK” program is a safety assurance program for Lake County residents, 60 and older, who may be

isolated or living alone. Individuals can enroll in the program to receive daily automated monitoring calls designed to provide security and ease the concerns that friends and families may have for their loved ones safety.

Through the program, which will be operated by Lifeline’s 211 service, each enrolled individual will receive several automated calls at pre-arranged times each day. If those calls are not answered after three attempts, a safety alert is sent to Lifeline’s 211. Lifeline’s 211 team

will contact the individual’s emergency contacts and, if necessary, local law enforcement for a well-check visit. Seniors who enroll in the program will be required to have a lock box installed on their home through their local fire department. Lifeline’s 211 can provide information on how to obtain one.

Those wishing to enroll in “Are You OK” can call Lifeline Program Coordinator Andrea Johnson at 440-354-2148 ext. 207 or email at [andrea@lclifeline.org](mailto:andrea@lclifeline.org) to learn more. ■

## MEET OUR NEW LAKE COUNTY JUDGES



THE HONORABLE JUDGE MIKE DELEONE

On July 25, 2023, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced the appointment of Mike DeLeone as the new Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division Judge. Judge DeLeone was sworn in on August 10, 2023, and immediately took the bench.

Judge DeLeone is married to his lovely wife, Stacy and they have five beautiful

children. Judge DeLeone began his career in private practice as a law clerk and paralegal for McIntyre, Kahn and Kruse LPA (now the Cleveland office of Weston Hurd) in 1995 while working his way through law school. After passing the bar, Judge DeLeone stayed on at the law firm as an Associate Attorney through July 19, 2002. Judge DeLeone then transitioned to an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Lake County on July 22, 2002 where he was employed until August 9, 2023. Judge DeLeone handled simple and complex litigation in all divisions of the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office which includes the Juvenile Division,

Felony Division, Civil Division, Child Support Enforcement Division, and Appellate Division. As part of his duties as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Judge DeLeone became certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) to teach the law section at the Lake County Sheriff’s Corrections Training Academy. Judge DeLeone continues to volunteer teach at the Lake County Sheriff’s Corrections Training Academy.

Judge DeLeone looks forward to continuing to serve Lake County in the Lake County Juvenile Court. ■



THE HONORABLE JUDGE JEFFREY W. RUPLE

Judge Jeffrey W. Ruple was appointed to the Lake County Court of Common Pleas by Governor Mike DeWine to take the seat formerly held by Judge Eugene Lucci and assumed office on April 24, 2023. Judge Ruple began his legal career in 1997 as an associate attorney at Falke & Dunphy in

Dayton, Ohio before moving to Murphy & Lyons in Covington, Kentucky. After his short time in the Cincinnati-Dayton

area, Judge Ruple moved back home to Lake County and began working initially at Baughman & Associates before joining Buckley King LPA where he became Partner. In 2014, Judge Ruple became a founding partner in Deacon, Cardenas, & Ruple which later became known as Cardenas Ruple & Kurt.

In addition to being admitted to practice law in Ohio, Judge Ruple is also admitted in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Federal District Courts for the Northern District of Ohio, Southern District of Ohio, Eastern District of Kentucky, Eastern District of Michigan, and U.S. Court of

Appeals for the 6th Circuit.

Judge Ruple graduated high school from Gilmour Academy. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Denison University in economics and history and obtained his law degree from the University of Dayton, School of Law. He grew up in and currently resides in Kirtland.

Judge Ruple has served on a number of Lake County non-profit boards, including Red Oak Camp, the Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Lake County, the Kirtland Kiwanis, the Fine Arts Association and Marilyn’s Voice. ■



# ADAMHS: WE ARE MORE THAN JUST AN ADMINISTRATOR

What is Lake ADAMHS? Well, maybe a better question is what is an acronym? An acronym is formed from the initial of other words and pronounced as a word. So what is Lake ADAMHS again? We are the behavioral health board for this county but our acronym spelled out is the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, or Lake ADAMHS for short.

Community Services Network, Signature Health, Torchlight Youth Mentoring Alliance, University Hospitals Lake West & TriPoint Medical Center Emergency Departments, Windsor-Laurelwood Center for Behavioral Medicine, and WomenSafe. Did you recognize any of these agencies from the community? Maybe, maybe not, hence the lack of identity for Lake ADAMHS. But we are more than just an administrator to these agencies. We also provide direct services from the Board to assist you in finding the right path to good mental health. The first direct service we provide is the Compass Line. The Compass Line is a user-friendly entry point to get direction regarding a mental health and/or substance use treatment. Finding help may seem complex but not when you have a Compass Line Guide. This person provides one-on-one assistance and support and can provide referrals, obtain wait times, and directly link individuals to the services needed. The Compass Line Guide is available weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by calling 440-350-2000. The second service is the Transportation



A community outreach and education event in Painesville included personal testimonials and professionals providing support options and advice.

Line. An important part of mental health or substance use disorder services are well... attendance. Through a partnership with the local public transit authority, Laketrans, we are able to schedule and pay for rides for our clients. Yes, you read that correctly, we will provide a FREE ride to and from your appointments to help you on your mental health journey. Lastly, our final internal service is Community Education. We provide FREE trainings that can cover a variety of subjects like self-care and why it's important, mental wellness for caregivers, how leaders can support their employees, and much more. These personalized presentations will help your team recognize behaviors relating to substance

use or mental illness and how to find assistance for themselves or their loved ones. If you have a group you want us to present to, please call the Compass Line at 440-350-2000. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. That is why Lake ADAMHS is here to support every aspect of behavioral health we can. Because we want the best version of you smiling back at you each morning. ■



Community education and outreach is one of the best ways to raise awareness about the behavioral health options here in Lake County.

This Board plans, funds, monitors, and evaluates services available to residents who are living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders but so much of our presence in the county is actually through the 16 agencies we administer to. They include BRIDGES: Mental Health Consumer Empowerment, Catholic Charities Community Services of Lake County, Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Crossroads Health, Extended Housing, Family Pride, The Fine Arts Association, Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers, Lifeline, Inc., NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness Lake County), Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare/

VISIT HELPTHATWORKS.US		
<p><b>LOOKING FOR HELP</b></p> <p>Urgent and non-urgent resources if you're looking for help relative to mental illnesses or substance-use disorders.</p>	<p><b>LOOKING FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Information about our system, our provider network, our board and staff, employment opportunities, and other ADAMHS initiatives. Also an overview of various mental illnesses.</p>	<p><b>SUICIDE PREVENTION</b></p> <p>Suicide risk factors, warning signs, and do's and don'ts; plus emergency and non-emergency resources. Also information about our support group for family and friends left behind when someone dies by suicide.</p> <p>LAKE COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION</p>
<p><b>SUBSTANCE-USE DISORDER</b></p> <p>The nature of substance-use disorders, treatment and recovery resources, common signs of abuse, and suggestions for parents.</p> <p>LAKE COUNTY OPIATE TASKFORCE</p>	<p><b>OUTREACH &amp; EDUCATION</b></p> <p>An important part of our mission is to increase awareness relative to behavioral health issues and to make sure more people know how to access available help resources.</p>	<p><b>INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS</b></p> <p>Where ADAMHS network providers can access logos, graphic standards, policies and documents, and see samples of available ADAMHS printed materials.</p>

(ADAMHS) Board is responsible for evaluating, planning, funding, and monitoring services to help Lake County residents who are dealing with a mental illness and/or addiction.



The Lake County  
Board of Commissioners  
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## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Lake Metroparks and Holden Arboretum, thousands of acres of protected land, and protective Zoning Districts.

Rooted in “Faith,” Kirtland is home to ten houses of worship, many of which have played an integral role in shaping the history of this small town. Regardless of denomination, Kirtland’s faith organizations continue to support the community in numerous ways, including bringing hundreds of volunteers to annual senior and veteran yard cleanup days.



Reflecting both tradition and local pride, Kirtland Schools continue to be a source of great community spirit. Annually, the district boasts top honors for education, music, and sports. Led by local legendary football coach, Tiger Laverde, the Hornets have captured six State Championships over the last twelve seasons. If that weren’t enough to put the scholastic sports programs on the map, the Kirtland girls and boys soccer teams repeatedly field some of the top teams in the State, including a girls State Championship victory in the 2020 soccer season.

As if Faith and Beauty were not enough to

make this corner of the county unique, the community thrives on neighbors helping neighbors. Led by Kirtland Kiwanis and the Kirtland Area Service Council, civic organizations in Kirtland are a model of the importance of unity and service. The famous “Kirtland Strawberry Festival,” held annually in June, is a prime example of dedication to community. This popular event generates tens of thousands of dollars each year and every dollar is returned to the community in the form of

college scholarships, playgrounds, scholastic resources, sporting equipment, and field rehabilitations.

Kirtland Fire, Public Works, and Police Departments are also known as some of the best in the county. Each of these Departments serve as more than safety and typical service. At any given community event, it is common to see the Fire and Police Chiefs, along with the Service Director, grilling burgers and hot dogs, or donning high visibility vests to direct traffic and lend a hand.

Finally, the Kirtland Senior Center has quickly become a gathering place for both our residents and those from surrounding communities. Seniors in Kirtland enjoy monthly lunches, art activities, music therapy, field trips, and the ever-popular newly built pickleball courts. It is hard to be at Kirtland’s Senior Center on any given day and not notice the vibrance and happiness among its patrons, employees, and volunteers.

Kirtland’s appeal has always been the allure of a small community where everybody knows everybody. As small as the city might seem, Kirtland packs a giant punch when it comes to pride, volunteerism, faith, beauty, and spirit. ■



## STAY SAFE ON HALLOWEEN

### BE VISIBLE

If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags or give them a flashlight or glow sticks

### STAY TOGETHER

A responsible adult should accompany young children while trick-or-treating

### CHECK CANDY

Tell your children not to eat any candy treats until they return home and the candy can be inspected.

### WALK SAFELY

Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don’t run, across the street

