



Lake Views

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 3- SUMMER 2024

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

LAKE COUNTY COMMENTS

Ready or not, here it comes! Nice weather is finally here and with it comes the potential for storms and severe weather. The Lake County Emergency Management Agency, along with the Local Emergency Planning Committee, have set up a website to help you plan ahead. Don't be scared; be prepared! Visit ReadyLakeCounty.com for more information on planning and preparing a disaster kit for you and your family.

Although these warmer temperatures can be perfect for a day at the beach, the Dog Warden would like to remind everyone that leaving any pet in

a parked car, even for just a few minutes, can be FATAL! On an 85-degree day, the temperature inside a vehicle (even with the windows slightly open) can reach 102 degrees within 10 minutes. After 30 minutes, the temperature can climb to



120 degrees! So, remember to always ensure pets have plenty of water and a cool place to stay so they are healthy and safe for the next few months.

Questions on recycling in Lake County? In this edition of "Lake Views", you will find an article from the Utilities Department detailing just that, as well as information regarding an increase in the senior discount for county water and sewer. The following article reminds us all of the upcoming County Fair and on page 3, the Honorable Judge Colleen A. Falkowski explains the important role the Domestic Relations Court serves in our community. We hope you will find this edition informational and we continue to encourage you to contact our various departments with any questions you may have in regards to these articles.



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
RICHARD REGOVICH

Lastly, as a reminder, all county offices will be closed Wednesday June 19th (Juneteenth). Offices will also close Thursday July 4th (Independence Day) and Monday September 2nd (Labor Day). We encourage everyone to stop and take a moment to remember the many contributions that workers have made to the growth, prosperity, and productivity of our county and country. We also extend our sincere wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy summer enjoying all our county has to offer! ■



LAKE COUNTY FAIR: Great Fun for Everyone

The 169th edition of the Lake County Fair will run July 23 – July 28, 2024 at the County Fairgrounds on Mentor Avenue in Painesville Township. This year's fair is presented by Ken Ganley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat Mentor with support from University Hospitals.

The 2024 Fair will be packed with fun for the whole family. This year features all your favorite fair traditions and more like motocross racing, truck and tractor pulls, side-by-side dirt track drag racing, the Lake County Demo Derby, horse shows, horse pulls, Jungle Terry and great music. A new addition will be "Dirt Track

(continued on page 2)

FAIR *continued from page 1*

Motor Mayhem” featuring a Rough Truck Competition and Figure 8 racing. And.... you will not want to miss the All-American Pig Races! This fun, free tradition will be held numerous times a day on the fair’s midway. You can also find Whiz Bang Science Shows Ltd. free on grounds.

The Fair starts Tuesday, July 23rd with “Veterans Day” sponsored by Zion Structures. There will be free admission for all until 3:00 pm and Veterans will be admitted free all day. You won’t want to miss the opening day parade starting at 6:00 pm featuring 150 units traveling from Painesville City on Mentor Avenue west to the fairgrounds. Leah Schuhart, the 2024 Ohio Fairs Queen, will be the Grand Marshal. Harness racing will take place on this day only with a noon post time and will feature both colts and fillies. It includes a special memorial race in honor of Bob and Polly Sidley.

Wednesday is “Family Day” and will feature Lake County’s first-ever “Dirt Track Motor Mayhem” in the grandstand. Families of four or more will be admitted for \$8/each including ride privileges. Thursday is “Kids Day” with free admission for ages 14 and under when accompanied by an adult. There will be free activities, games, and prizes for ages 12 and under at the main grandstand beginning at 1:00 pm sponsored by Lake County Job and Family Services. All-day ride wristbands are available for just \$8 on this day. Friday is “Seniors Day” with ages 60 and over free until 3:00 pm. It includes a free boxed lunch (while they last) and other activities sponsored by LAKETRAN.

The weekend features a full line-up of horse shows, a horse pull, the annual 4-H Livestock Auction, Power Truck and Tractor Pulls, Latino Day and the ever-popular Lake County Demolition Derby; the granddaddy of all demo derbies. Free on-grounds acts will include Jungle Terry and the All-American Pig Races. There will be Free Kiddie Tractor Pulls on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

For more information, ticket prices, and a complete schedule of events, visit the Fair’s website at lakecountyyfair.org. ■

The CITY OF WICKLIFFE: Lake County Commissioners Community Spotlight

The City of Wickliffe began as a precinct in Willoughby Township before becoming a village in 1916. In 1951, it became a city and is sometimes referred to as the Gateway to Lake County. City Hall, the former home of Wickliffe’s first mayor Harry Coulby, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The mansion sits on 54 acres and offers a public park featuring a pond, two pavilions, a gazebo, a pool, and a new fountain. It has become a popular destination for wedding, graduation, and prom photos. Our approximately 4 square mile city also has six additional public parks which offer various amenities.

The Wickliffe City School District, whose mission is *Inspiring Students to Learn, Lead, and Serve*, consolidated all students onto one new campus which opened in August of 2023.



The City of Wickliffe

This summer, our Recreation Department has many activities for residents and guests to enjoy. Our **Summer Concert Series at Coulby**, as well as the **Jindra Concert Series**, are free and open to all. The Coulby Concerts, sponsored by Truline Industries, will be on Friday evenings from 7-10 pm at the Gazebo behind City Hall. There you will find food trucks along with the Wickliffe Forever Foundation who will sell adult beverages at each event. *Pieces of Eight featuring the Lakeside Brass* will perform June 14th, *Cocktail Johnny* is scheduled for July 19th, and *Sumrada* will entertain us on August 9th. The Jindra series, sponsored by Keep Wickliffe Beautiful and Lubrizol, will be held at the Community/Senior Center on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 pm. *Red Light Roxie* will perform June 12th, *The Joey Tomsick Orchestra* will entertain on July 17th, and *The Ron Sluga Orchestra* will delight on August 14th. July 17th is also the date for our annual Car Show – an event not to be missed. Join us for a Movie in the Park night, sponsored by NOPEC. Enjoy *Wonka!* with pre-movie activities beginning at 7 pm at Coulby Park on Friday May 31st (movie begins at dusk).

Wickliffe’s Green Ridge Golf Course is another fantastic amenity! With a newly renovated clubhouse, this 9-hole course on Ridge Road is a hidden gem. Come play a round!

Our outstanding Police and Fire Departments as well as our fabulous Service, Building, and Finance Departments serve our residents with pride!

New development in Wickliffe includes the old elementary and middle school properties and the former Ponderosa property. Each are in the process of rezoning and will be converted to upscale housing, business space, and fifty-five and over housing.

Our fantastic restaurants and businesses round out what makes *Wickliffe the place to be!* Join us for an event, frequent our businesses, or become a Wickliffian! For more information, visit us at CityofWickliffe.com. We look forward to welcoming you to Wickliffe! ■



LAKE COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS



Judge Colleen A. Falkowski

The Lake County Domestic Relations Court handles divorces, petitions for dissolution of marriage, annulments, and legal separations. The most common cases are contested divorces and dissolutions. A dissolution of marriage requires that both spouses each voluntarily sign a separation agreement and parenting plan (if there are children of the marriage) to terminate their marriage. A marriage can be terminated by dissolution 90 days after filing the petition. By contrast, some contested divorces take far longer to conclude depending on the complexity of the issues and how aggressively the spouses want to litigate property division, spousal support and children's issues at trial.

Once a marriage is terminated by either divorce or dissolution, parties often return to court on what is called a "post decree motion" as to children's issues such as modification or termination of a shared parenting plan, alleged substance abuse by a parent, or suspension of parenting time. A guardian ad litem (GAL), an experienced family law attorney, may be appointed by myself to interview the parents, their homes, and speak to the children in private.

The guardian speaks to the children's therapists, any necessary medical doctor of the children and/or parents, and the current spouse of a parent or significant other of a parent. The foregoing is a minimum summary of what a guardian does in a case. The guardian does not represent the children in a divorce. The guardian's responsibility is to make a recommendation to the Court as to the best interest of the children after his/her investigation is complete.

When I took the bench on January 2, 2003, it was rare in a divorce case to have a child in therapy. In 2024, it is rare NOT to have a child in therapy. I wish to emphasize not every case with children is riddled with conflict. I have had hundreds of parents in court who are able to co-parent well together. These parents are able to put their personal differences aside to give their children emotional stability and security in both homes.

We also handle petitions for domestic violence civil protection orders. The petitioner (the one who files the case) asks the court for an immediate order of protection that day. The petitioner often

alleges he/she is in fear of imminent physical harm to the filer and others in the home, such as children. The *ex parte* hearing is held the day the petition is filed, with only the petitioner testifying. The Court decides if an order should be issued. If an order is issued, a hearing is held after the respondent is served with the civil protection order so the respondent can appear in court as well as the petitioner.

Since 2004, the Court offers a mediation program as a no-cost alternative to litigation for parties in a Lake County case. I am pleased to note, unlike other courts, we have been able to keep our mediation program free to our Lake County families – Judge Colleen A. Falkowski

For further information regarding the Lake County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, you can contact them at (440) 350-2708 Monday-Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm or visit their website at lcrdct.org. ■



RECYCLING IN LAKE COUNTY

The Lake County Department of Utilities, in conjunction with its Solid Waste

District, continues to

provide onsite single-stream containers for residents of Lake County to recycle items free of charge. These bins are located at the Lake County Landfill, 2039 Blasé Nemeth Road in Painesville Township, and are available for residents to drop off items during standard hours of operation, year-round Monday through Friday from 7 am to 3:30 pm and Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm.

In an effort to highlight the importance of recycling and the reduction of recyclables thrown in the garbage, the Solid Waste District has provided additional recycling dumpsters on-site and encourages residents to utilize this free service, especially those in the county who are not offered a curbside service to recycle. "This is an important service for many residents living in apartments and condos that do not offer recycling service," said Tim Gourley, Coordinator of Lake County Solid Waste District.

Acceptable items that can be placed in the bin: Paper: office paper, junk mail, folders, magazines, catalogs, phone books,

newspapers, flattened cardboard, paperboard, paper cartons (must remove & discard straws), and only clean pizza boxes
Plastics: bottles and jugs (caps included)
Metals: aluminum cans, steel and tin cans
Glass: Any color glass (must remove and discard all caps). All recyclable containers should be emptied and rinsed out prior to collection.

In order to maximize space and collection volume, the Solid Waste District asks that residents avoid using bags of any kind, to break down cardboard boxes, and to loosely place only the permitted recyclable materials into the single stream recycling

(continued on p4)



The Lake County
Board of Commissioners
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UTILITY DISCOUNT FOR SENIORS INCREASED

The Board of Commissioners, along with the Lake County Department of Utilities, have approved a discount increase from 25% to 30% for all qualifying senior citizens currently using county water and sewer. This decision comes as part of an ongoing effort to aid those in need. Anyone who was previously qualified and is already receiving the 25% discount will automatically begin receiving the 30% discount.



Previously, Commission President John T. Plecnik proposed a 25% discounted rate which was unanimously adopted on November 18, 2021. The Board of Commissioners believes this additional 5% will help serve the needs of senior citizens in Lake County, especially those facing the scourge of inflation as well as other economic challenges.

Plecnik stated, "Lake County is the smallest county in Ohio geographically, but we are proud to be number one for seniors. As Commissioner, I will always fight for our seniors and serve as their voice. It is our responsibility to respect and take care of our senior citizens, especially those who are struggling to make ends meet. By increasing the discount on water and sewer bills, we are

helping to alleviate some of the financial burden seniors face every day."

To aid senior citizens struggling with the high cost of water/sewer bills, the Board of Commissioners has encouraged all other political subdivisions and water supply companies doing business in Lake County to also offer discounted water and sewer rates to this vulnerable population. By offering discounted or reduced rates for senior citizens, communities help ensure that older residents are able to maintain their quality of life without worrying over excessive water costs.

Commissioner John R. Hamercheck added, "Many of our senior citizens have lived in this community for decades and have contributed in countless ways. It is only fair that we provide them with the support they need to live comfortably in their golden years."

"Water and sewer bills can be a significant expense for low-income individuals, and for seniors on fixed incomes, the burden can be even greater. This increase in the discount will make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most," Commissioner Richard J. Regovich emphasized.

To enroll, please visit LakeCountyOhio.gov/utilities/. Click on "Public Announcements", then "Senior Citizen Discount Program". To print the application and mail it in, scroll down to "You may download the application form here". Residents can also contact the Utilities Dept. Billing & Customer Service Office at (440) 350-2070 with any questions or to have a form mailed to them. ■

Recycle (continued from p3)

bin. Prohibited items are plastic bags (they are accepted at Giant Eagle, Marc's, Target, and Heinen's stores), styrofoam, medical sharps and syringes, window glass, drinking glasses, coat hangers, scrap metal (it is accepted at scrap yards), pizza boxes containing grease or food, and plastics that are not bottles or jugs. These prohibited items should be placed in your typical garbage.

The Solid Waste District has also opened the capability for residents to dispose of Electronics, Appliances, and Tires year-round at the Lake County Landfill. In the past, these items were only collected at Special Collections events twice a year but they are now collected on-site at 2039 Blasé Nemeth Road in Painesville Township. Small electronics are collected for no cost while other items such as tires have a small cost associated.

See the Solid Waste website for updated pricing and information regarding the Lake County Landfill recycling and other collections available to residents at lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/solid-waste-division ■

