



Lake Views

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

fall COUNTY UPDATES

A We are pleased to report that, with recent approval by Painesville’s Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals, plans to build a new Public Safety Center for the Lake County Sheriff’s Office have moved one step closer. Slated to hold 353 inmates back in 1990, our current facility has now held as many as 410 inmates at a time. Multiple professional reports of



the current facility have recommended a new facility vs. renovation of the current structure. The proposed facility will be approximately 240,000 sq. ft. with a capacity of 504 inmates. It will utilize state of the art technology and provide operational flexibility for the daily operations of the Sheriff’s Office. A permit was approved allowing it to be

built directly across from the current facility. We will begin site clearing and demolition

in the late summer- early fall. While we envision using the existing jail property for public parking, these properties will be used for “future-proofing”, ranging from future additions to the Safety Center to even more expanded parking if the need arises. The building is tentatively scheduled for completion in the summer of 2027. Our Board meetings are accessible to the public on YouTube at Lake County Ohio so be sure to check in there where our County Administrator, Jason Boyd, provides status updates as they occur.

Fall is just around the corner and we all know what that means; Fall Clean-up! When raking leaves and trimming back plants, consider composting that waste. Composting results in nutrient-rich soil that you can use in your garden. Remember to never dump yard waste near storm drains, ditches or streams.



COMMISSIONER / President
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER
RICHARD REGOVICH

For tips on constructing a compost bin, you can contact our Lake County Stormwater Management Department at (440) 350-5900 or find them online at lakecountyohio.gov/smd and on social media.

Lastly, here are a few county closings for the fall season. All county offices will be closed Monday October 14th in observance of Columbus Day as well as Monday November 11th for Veterans Day. For the Thanksgiving holiday, they will also be closed Thursday November 28th and Friday November 29th. We encourage everyone to stop and take a moment to remember the sacrifices so many of our veterans have made to safeguard our freedoms and we also extend our sincere wishes for a healthy and happy Thanksgiving spent with family and friends! ■



COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

In 1811, the Board of Geauga County Commissioners ordered the incorporation of Madison Township as a government body. The Township currently 43.2 square miles in area, is situated in the eastern end of Lake County. Madison’s most valuable natural asset of six miles of Lake Erie shoreline. When totaled, 2020 US Census population data for both the Township and Madison Village, an incorporated portion of the Township, totals 21,918 people. *(continued on p3)*

“KEY TO LAKE COUNTY” AWARDED TO DAVID E. ANDERSON



Earlier this year, the Board of Lake County Commissioners established the “Key to Lake County”; an honor presented on a very selective basis to individuals or businesses who have achieved significant accomplishments resulting in proof of their unwavering commitment for the betterment of our community. It was proposed by Commission President John T. Plecnik in May where it quickly gained the support of fellow Commissioners John R. Hamercheck and Richard J. Regovich. The Key requires unanimous consent of the Board in order to be granted and is considered our County’s highest and most prestigious award.

On Thursday May 30th, David E. Anderson of Willoughby was formally recognized as the very first recipient of the “Key to Lake County”. A lifelong resident of Lake County, Mr. Anderson served as Mayor of Willoughby from 1991 until his retirement 26 years later. In June of 2021, with interests centering around economic development, fiscal management, and strategic planning, no one was more qualified to fill the shoes of Executive Director of the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority and he was unanimously selected by the Port’s Board.

From the start, he worked tirelessly to rebrand the Port Authority into the Lake Development Authority as it is now currently known with a goal to “accelerate the economic growth of Lake County by providing tailored

guidance and resources in the areas of financing, partnership, spaces, transportation, and community”. The LDA is the economic development arm of the Lake County Board of Commissioners as well as a co-sponsor of the Lake County Executive Airport. During his time with the LDA, Mr.



Anderson oversaw the development of the North Park Sediment Recycling Facility in Painesville Township. He supervised multiple projects that received JobsOhio funding ultimately creating over 150 jobs in the county.



His desire to be of service to Lake County did not end with Willoughby or the LDA as he has served on Boards for Leadership Lake County, United Way of Lake County, the Lakeland

Foundation, and the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council. He served as Board President for the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and as Chairman for the Lake County Narcotics Agency.

In response to being chosen as the first honoree of the Key, Mr. Anderson responded, “I’m at a loss for words today, surrounded by so many friends and colleagues who have worked alongside me for so many years. I’m honored to share with you the principles that have guided me throughout my career. I’ve always believed that doing what is right, even when it’s not easy or popular, is the key to success. As Mark Twain once said, ‘Always do what is right. This will gratify some people and astonish everyone else.’ I’ve tried to live by these words, even when it meant making difficult decisions. I’ve also learned that true leadership is not about individual achievement, but about building and empowering a strong team.” He added, “I was fortunate to work with an exceptional team in Willoughby and then later in the county and I’m grateful for their hard work and dedication. I want to express my deepest gratitude to my family who have supported me throughout my career. Without their love and encouragement, I wouldn’t be here today. I’m humbled to receive this award and I appreciate the recognition of my work.” ■

3RD ANNUAL LAKE COUNTY CAREGIVER FORUM

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Board of Lake County Commissioners, in partnership with the Lake County Council on Aging and Lifeline, is proud to present the third annual Caregiver Forum on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m. **This free event is open to the public and will take place at the Holiday Inn Cleveland Northeast-Mentor, located at 7701 Reynolds Rd., Mentor.**

The forum is designed for caregivers of older adults and will feature expert speakers on the topics of loss and caregiving, advance directives, and long-term care options. Additionally, more than 30 local agencies and providers will be on hand to offer information on a range of services and answer questions.

To ensure your spot, registration is required. You can sign up online starting September 3rd through the county's website at <https://www.lakecountyohio.gov/senior-services/lake-county-caregiver-forum/> or scan the QR code.

A complimentary lunch will be provided for all registered attendees. The forum is sponsored by Laketrans, How Money Works, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Cornerstone Caregiving, the Enclave at Newell Creek, University Hospital Lake Health, and the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.

For more information about the Lake County Caregiver Forum, please contact Alyea Barajas at alyea.barajas@lakecountyohio.gov or (440) 350-2748. Don't miss this informative and empowering day of caregiving support! ■



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MADISON TWP. (continued from page 1)

The Township is a non-home rule government body and therefore a creature of state government. All



powers and authority granted upon the Township are codified by the Ohio legislature as found in the Ohio Revised Code. The Board of Township Trustees consists of three individuals elected to four-year terms and act as the governing body of the Township. A fourth elected official, the Township Fiscal Officer, is also elected to a four-year term and is responsible for the management of Township finances and records.

The majority of business located in the Township is retail and service oriented with very few manufacturing facilities. Two specific industries, viticulture & nursery, are noteworthy and significantly impact the economic health of the Township.

Notable recreational activities in the Township include five Township parks,

six Lake Metropark properties, several Grand River Valley Region wineries, and the historical Rabbit Run Theater. Parks range from lakefront beach parks to mature hardwood forests offering trails, camping and other outdoor activities.

The Township has their own Police Dept. that serves the Township residents whereas the Madison Joint Fire District provides the Township and Village with fire and rescue emergency response.

Madison Local Schools provide public education at five facilities; Madison Pre-K, South Madison Elementary, North Madison Elementary, Madison Middle, and Madison High Schools. The Middle School and High School are located on a common campus at Burns and Middle Ridge. South Elementary is located in Madison Village and North Elementary is located in North Madison. ■



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

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WHAT DOES LAKE COUNTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS DO?

The first thing that typically comes to mind is telephones, radios, and security cameras, but are you aware that we are also responsible for the outdoor warning sirens you hear in an emergency, security keycard access in all county buildings, 911 for the Central Communications Command Center, for maintaining operation of (18) backup generators, and are in charge of all detention electronics for the Lake County Jail and the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center? Well, hang on because we don't stop there.

Our department maintains the radio system that serves all Police and Fire Departments in Lake County as well as all the schools. The Lake County Department of Utilities, the Lake County Engineer Department, the Buildings & Grounds Department as well as the Telecommunications and Lake County

General Health District encompass over 3,500 radios. On an average day, our system averages 30,000 push to talk transmissions!

We utilize a Mitel phone system boasting one of the lowest costs of ownership available. We have over 2,500 telephones making and receiving over 13,500 calls every business day or nearly 3 million calls per year. Our camera system has one of the lowest costs of ownership of any camera system today because the annual cost of ownership is - ZERO. There are NO license fees, NO management fees, and NO tech support fees.

Our keycard access system has the lowest cost of ownership of any card access system on the market today. Currently, all county offices use the same company for their card access with over (400 doors) and (3) servers on the existing system. In the past 7 years since we have implemented it, it has proven to be very reliable with nearly zero failures.

Our Lake County siren system is used for outdoor weather warnings as well as operating as the notification system for the Perry Nuclear Power Plant. In Lake County, there are (52) sirens within 10 miles of the power plant with an additional (50) sirens outside a 10 mile radius of the plant. The sirens outside the 10 mile radius are the responsibility of our department and we are currently in the process of replacing them. In fact, we may even have them completely replaced by the time you are reading this!

Lastly, we want to emphasize that our departments have the best equipment and resources available. We can assure you, this is not by accident; it is by design. The better we are at investigating all options, the less cost is incurred allowing our employees to perform more efficiently. Costs associated with poor planning, multiple systems requiring high-priced licenses, tech support, maintenance and software fees ultimately impact our budget. Our team in the Telecommunications Department will always do our best to limit or eliminate unnecessary expenses.

If you have any questions regarding the different responsibilities we oversee, we can be reached at (440) 350-2586 Monday-Friday. ■



UPDATES TO LODGING TAX

The Lake County Finance Department is responsible for collecting a 5% lodging tax for all lodging establishments located within Lake County. In an effort to streamline this, they have created a process to make collecting, remitting, and reporting of lodging tax easier and more efficient. A new lodging tax collection software known as "GovOS" is scheduled to start in the fall of 2024. GovOS will allow you to log in, report, and remit taxes all in one place. As they are currently preparing to launch this software, you will receive an introduction letter in the mail with instructions on how to register and set up your new account. This letter will include the website, a new account number, and an activation code per property within the upcoming weeks.

They plan to have the software up and fully running by early 2025 making this the only way of remitting and reporting lodging bed tax for all establishments to include hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts as well as short term rentals such as Airbnbs/VRBOs at that time.

***If you should have any questions, either now or when your information arrives, please contact the Lake County Finance Department at 440-350-2369 or via email at ariel.hill@lakountyohio.gov**. ■*