



Lake Views

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 - SPRING 2025

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

WEATHER OR NOT SPRING IS COMING!

Cool temperatures should be in our rear-view window very soon and Mark Twain once said, "In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." No one can relate to that better than a Northeastern Ohioan! But on a more hopeful note, have you started planning your gardens



for the year yet? Our springs typically bring plenty of rain so consider planting a rain garden. These gardens are not raised but sunken into the ground in order to absorb stormwater, catch pollutants, and provide habitat for pollinators. By directing a downspout to the garden, you can help keep the water out of storm sewers. Also, consider using cover crops to minimize weeds and soil erosion. For more information, you can contact our Lake County Stormwater Management Department at lakecountyohio.gov/smd with any questions you might have or find them on social media.

With warmer weather ahead, our fruit season is about to kickoff with strawberries in May and blueberries,

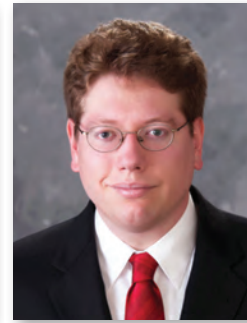
blackberries, and raspberries in July. Since these can be used to create delicious baked goods and pastries, have

you considered selling them from your home? If your item includes a fresh fruit garnish or filling or requires refrigeration like cream pies and cheesecake do, a Home Bakery License will need to be obtained. For more information on the selling of baked goods in the State of Ohio, visit the Ohio Dept of Agriculture website at agri.ohio.gov or you can email them at foodsafety@agri.ohio.gov with your questions.

In this issue, we introduce you to our newest Commissioner; Commissioner Morris W. Beverage III! We congratulate Commissioner Beverage and wish him well in his new position as a county



COMMISSIONER / President
RICHARD REGOVICH



COMMISSIONER
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER
MORRIS BEVERAGE III

elected official. Be sure to read the article on page 3 for more information on the experience he has gained as an entrepreneur and his involvement in our community as well as his volunteer work with a number of our local non-profits. We also congratulate Commissioner Regovich as he was elected President of our Board for 2025. Lastly, we have a few county office closures coming up in the next few months: All county offices will be closed Monday May 26th in observance of Memorial Day and Thursday June 19th in observance of Juneteenth National Independence Day. ■



LC COMMISSIONERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: MENTOR-ON-THE-LAKE

Mentor-on-the-Lake is a charming city located in the northeast corner of Ohio, along the shores of Lake Erie. Mentor-on-the-Lake is known for its small-town charm, friendly community, and beautiful lakeside setting. It's a great place for families, retirees, and anyone looking for a serene environment close to nature. Originally part of Mentor Township, Mentor-on-the-Lake was established as a village on October 22, 1924. It became an Incorporated City on February 12, 1971 and covers a total area of 1.65 square miles. As of the 2020 census, the population was 7,131.

(continued on p4)



THE LAKE COUNTY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Lake County Planning and Community Development Department (P&CD) is essential for supporting the county's growth and function as it ensures that land use, zoning, and housing developments are aligned with the community's needs and goals. These include expanding economic opportunity, improving housing and living conditions, improving the quantity and quality of community services, and making a lasting impact through public improvements. Lake County P&CD consists of 7 staff members made up of administrative, planning, and community development specialists. The department

is led by the Director, David Radachy, and the Assistant Director, Rhea Benton.

The Lake County Planning Commission is the board that approves subdivisions in the five Lake County Townships. Planning and Community Development staff review and administer those subdivisions for the Lake County Planning Commission. 736 new lots were added to the tax roll from 2017 to 2024 with 529 through the plat process and 207 lots through the minor subdivision process. Staff also reviewed and approved 212 transfers between adjacent land owners. There are 246 sublots that have not been

recorded yet and they are in the subdivision review process.

P&CD staff provide the 23 Lake County communities with various planning services ranging from researching, reviewing, and writing zoning code to providing demographics and mapping services. The department has also answered hundreds of resident questions dealing with land, zoning, subdivisions, and house numbering. Through the administration of key federal programs, the department provides essential funding and support for community development projects. *Currently, the department is overseeing the following programs:*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

The CDBG Program addresses a range of community needs. Funds are targeted to assist low and moderate income individuals and families with the intent of filling gaps in funding: \$1.3 mil annual formula funding.

CDBG CARES ACT (CDBG-CV)

This program funds activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus. Funds are utilized for business assistance and public services and facilities improvements to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Final projects are currently underway: \$1.5 mil, grant period through 2026.

(HOME) HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The HOME Program funds a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitation affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people: \$400,000 annual formula funding.

HOME-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROGRAM (HOME ARP)

This program provides funding to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability: \$1.6 mil, grant period through 2030.

LEAD SAFE OHIO PROGRAM

This program provides ARPA/SLFRF funding to conduct lead abatement services including window and door replacement in residential properties, congregate care settings, and childcare facilities constructed before 1978: \$1.3 mil, grant period through 2026.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ERAP-2)

This program was developed to support housing stability for eligible renters throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial assistance can include the payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and other expenses: \$3.3 mil, grant period through September 2025. ■

WINNERS

2024 Season  **77-53**
W L

CONGRATULATIONS
2024 Lake County Captains
Midwest League Champions
&
MiLB Team of the Year
by Baseball America

2025 HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS

Lake County Fairgrounds
1301 Mentor Avenue
Painesville

Saturday, May 31st & Saturday, Sept. 20th

Visit lakecountyohio.gov/utilities/special-collections

FOR LIST OF ACCEPTED ITEMS

DANGEROUS

LAKE COUNTY'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake County Captains Season..... April-Sept
Painesville Speedway Season..... March-Nov
Rabbit Run Theater Season May- September
3rd Annual HOLA Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.....5/3-25
Lighthouse Concert Series - Fairport Harbor..5/30-7/12
Mentor Rocks Concert Series6/3-8/26
Concord Township Summer Concert Series...6/5-7/31
100th Anniversary - Fairport Harbor W Lighthouse6/7/25
2025 Kirtland Heritage Days6/13-6/15
Lake County PRIDE 6/14/25
65th Kirtland Kiwanis Strawberry Festival..... 6/14/25
Wildwood Arts & Wine..... 6/21/25
200th Anniversary- Fairport Harbor Lighthouse 6/21/25
Fairport Mardi Gras 7/5/25



LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS: MEET YOUR NEWEST COMMISSIONER MORRIS BEVERAGE III

Lake County Board of Commissioners’ Regovich and Plecnik, along with their staff, welcomed in Lake County’s newest Commissioner, Morris W. Beverage III, on January 3rd. Beverage won the November 5th 2024 election where he will serve a 4 year term and while this is his first foray as an elected official, he brings over 10 years worth of Lake County leadership experience with him. He is also a third generation Lake County resident, a father to (2) children, and husband to his wife Kerri. His further education started at Bowling Green University and an internship with Merrill Lynch then turned into a full-time position. He transferred to Cleveland State where he graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration degree and then continued on to finish his MBA.

Beverage’s leadership timeline begins in 2011 when he graduated from Leadership Lake County. In 2012, he was inducted into the Lakeland Community College Hall of Fame and began serving as Board Members for the Lake County Historical Society and the Lake/Geauga Educational Assistance Foundation (LEAF). He became Board President for the Historical Society in 2014. He created M.W. Beverage Financial Services in 2015 which would ultimately become Lighthouse Advisors.

Commissioner Beverage served many roles within the United Way of Lake

County Organization since his start with them in 2016. He created various fundraising initiatives and served as a Cabinet Member and Campaign Chair. In 2017, UWLC presented him with the “Matthew A. Logies Ambassador Award” and since this organization is so near and dear to his heart, he remains a Board Member to this day. In 2016 as a Fundraising Chair & Founding Board Member, Beverage became involved with the Miracle League of Lake County; a group created to remove barriers for individuals who have mental and physical disabilities so they can enjoy America’s favorite pastime, baseball! He was inducted into the Mentor High School Hall of Fame in 2019 and shortly after in 2020, the Mentor Area Chamber of Commerce awarded him “Business Leader of the Year”. He became the “Heart Walk” Chair for the American Heart Association in 2021 and still holds that title today. Commissioner Beverage is extremely proud of launching “Hero Fest Lake County” which raises money for scholarships and mental health services for Lake County’s first responders where he “looks forward to seeing how impactful this annual event will be.”

Over 20 years of financial experience has him focused on taking a “deep dive”

into the county budget with a particular interest in the Lake County Public Safety Center project. He intends to work closely with Sheriff Leonbruno, Commissioners Plecnik and Regovich, County Administrator Jason Boyd, and Budget Director Zachary Underwood to ensure the county is efficient as possible. “With potential savings and stretching tax dollars as far as we can, we should be able to continue to invest



MORRIS BEVERAGE III CONGRATULATED BY JUDGE MARISA L. CORNACHIO

in the Lake County Sheriff’s,” explains Commissioner Beverage.

Here in the Commissioner’s Office, we look forward to more of his entertaining stories as well as a 2025 Lake County Fair Livestock bidding rivalry with Commissioner Plecnik! ■

3RD ANNUAL LAKE COUNTY TACO TRAIL ANNOUNCED!



THE LAKE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU, NOW KNOWN AS TOUR LAKE COUNTY, IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF THE 2025 TACO TRAIL!

Now in its third year, the Lake County Taco Trail invites taco enthusiasts to explore 20 family-owned taquerias and restaurants throughout the county, discovering new and delicious flavors along the way. Following the success of the 2024 Taco Trail which grew by over 25% and attracted nearly 1,900 passholders from more than (8) states, the 2025 Taco Trail is introducing brand new prizes and some fantastic restaurant offers!

Neil Stein, Executive Director of Tour Lake County, said “We are more excited about the 2025 Taco Trail than ever before! Participants are going to love the new, black T-shirt this year which has been designed to look like a concert T-shirt listing all the participating restaurants on the back. Plus, the Tacos-for-a-Year Grand Prize is going to make one taco aficionado very happy in 2026!” (continued on p4)



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

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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT *(continued from p1)*

The city offers a peaceful atmosphere with Lake Overlook Park offering picturesque views of Lake Erie and it is a popular spot for picnics, walking, and enjoying the sunset. Thanks to a grant from Representative Dan Troy and the residents' investment in a levy, the city is currently working on enhancements to the park including securing the bluff and adding some new features. Other parks in the city include baseball and soccer fields at McMinn Park while Andrews Field Park has a new playground area with a pavilion and large fields.

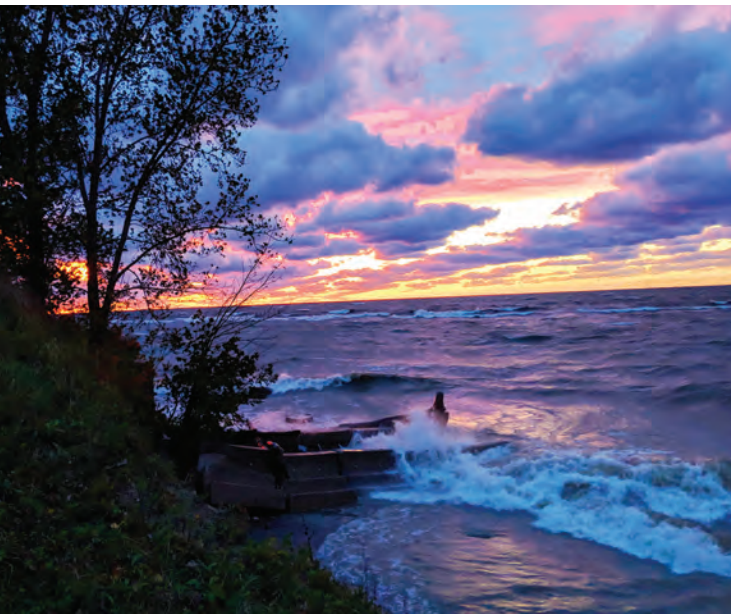
Mentor-on-the-Lake recently celebrated its Centennial with several different events including a family friendly celebration, sponsored by Giant Eagle with a Time Capsule and a Centennial Dinner Party hosted by the Mayor at Mentor Harbor Yachting Club. Mentor-on-the-Lake Historical

Society shared a great presentation and commemorative glasses were sponsored by the Mentor Public Library. The city hosts a Fall Festival every September which offers fun for the whole family with live music, a magic show, live animals, bounce houses and tons of vendors! This is free to attend and all are welcome. This year, it will be held on Saturday September 6th with more details to be posted on the city's website very soon.

The city is also actively working on a comprehensive plan to guide future development. This includes both commercial and residential projects such as the new townhouses at the corner of Lakeshore Boulevard and Andrews Road, various stormwater management projects, and modernized streetscaping. The city features unique shops and restaurants providing a variety of options for dining and shopping. Recent additions to the city include a Chipotle, Enzo's Pizza, and a Dollar General that offers fresh produce.

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So whether you're a resident or a visitor, you'll find plenty of exciting activities and attractions to explore in Mentor-on-the-Lake. From beautiful parks and lakeside views to charming local shops and restaurants, there's something for everyone to enjoy! ■



TACO TRAIL *(continued from p3)*

To join the Lake County Taco Trail, participants can download the 2025 version of the pass at tourlakecounty.com/taco-trail (or re-download for those who participated in the 2024 trail). At 1,200 points, passholders will earn a "Touring for Tacos" T-shirt featuring Tour Lake County's Taco Trail mascot; Tito! But that's not all — everyone who earns their T-shirt will also be entered into a drawing in January 2026 for a chance to win Tacos for a Year!

Although we love our tacos, there is no shortage of delicious restaurants and eateries across Lake County. Whether you're looking for rich history and traditional Italian food at Silvestro's Depot Café in Painesville or innovative flavors at Julia's 1902 in Willoughby, you're sure to find some delightful bites that you'll continue to crave!

Lake County also has some fantastic waterfront dining spots where you can enjoy beautiful views of Lake Erie while sharing a meal. Brennan's Fish House is a local favorite that specializes in fresh seafood and traditional American fare. It boasts a laid-back, rustic vibe with an intimate outdoor patio. Right across the street, you'll find Pickle Bill's; another iconic spot with a lively, fun atmosphere known for its fish tacos, fried seafood, and delicious drinks! If you're looking for a new, lakefront dining experience, then check out Vincent William Wine; Lake County's newest waterfront winery and restaurant in Madison Township where you can enjoy a glass of wine before a fire and savor an intimate menu, reminiscent of a European countryside retreat!

Lake County; Dine with us!

www.tourlakecounty.com/restaurants ■