



Lake Views

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3 – SUMMER 2026

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

Celebrate, Connect, and Stay Informed

As we get ready to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday on July 4th, America250 is about to reach a fever pitch (pun intended). The Captains Stadium will be hosting an America250 Spectacular, kicking off with a Patriot baseball game and ending with an amazing fireworks display. There will also be a few special surprises squeezed in between, so be sure to mark your calendar and celebrate with us!



We are proud to announce, in partnership with the Lake County Board of Elections and Tour Lake County, that Frances Jennings Casement was elected as our featured figure for the 2026 America250 commemorative bobblehead. Following a successful community-wide voting initiative, she

received the highest number of votes (31.7%) out of a total of 643 ballots cast. A limited quantity will be available on Saturday July 26th at America250 Day at the Fair so be sure to arrive early to secure yours.

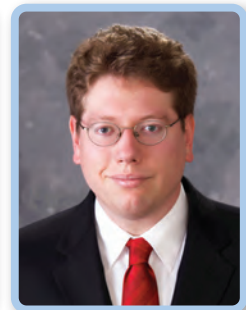
In this edition of "Lake Views", we wanted to draw attention to Elder Abuse Awareness as it remains a critical issue affecting some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Raising awareness helps promote prevention, encourages reporting, and ensures that older adults are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. There is also a reminder from our Stormwater Management Department regarding the importance of responsible cleanup of pet waste, particularly as it relates



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to water quality and overall public health.

And for the first time since we began "Lake Views" in 2021, this edition has expanded to include an additional page dedicated to Veterans featuring a message from Jonathan Warmeling, our Executive Director of the Veteran Services Department.

Our Board of Commissioners extends its sincere wishes for a safe, healthy, and happy summer as you enjoy all our county has to offer; from the vineyards of the Grand River Valley to the natural beauty of our gardens, parks, and Lake Erie beaches! ■

ENJOY THESE SUMMER EVENTS IN BEAUTIFUL LAKE COUNTY

Mentor Rocks..... June 2 – Aug 25
Concord Summer Concerts June 4-July 30
Madison Village Summer Concerts... June 4 – Aug 13
Painesville Concerts at the River June 10-Aug 13
Fine Arts Assoc.: *Fame* the Musical June 5-20
Perry Twp. Park Summer Concerts July 8-Aug 19
Concerts & More at Penitentiary Glen... June 5-Aug 21
Denzel Ward Celebrity Softball Game June 6
DTW and Osborne Park Concerts..... June 10-Aug 13
Tunes at the Lagoons June 12-Aug 21

Kirtland Strawberry Festival June 18-20
Apollo's Fire: Echoes of Ireland at Holden Arboretum..... June 20-21
Wildwood Fine Arts & Wine June 20
City of Willoughby & Cleve. Pops Orchestra July 4
Lake County America 250 Celebration..... July 4
Mentor Independence Celebration & Concert ... July 4
Stars, Stripes & Harbor Lights Festival..... July 5
Lake Erie Sand Sculpture Tour July 11
Party in the Park July 17-19

Willoughby ArtsFest..... July 18
Lake County Fair July 28-Aug 2
Downtown Willoughby NashWill Aug 1
Vintage Ohio Wine Festival Aug 7-8
Willoughby Arts Chalkfest..... Aug 8
Lake County Pride..... Aug 15
Willoughby Hills Music Fest Aug 15
Madison Village
Last Call for Summer Bash..... Aug 29
<https://www.tourlakecounty.com/events/>

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

A CALL TO ACTION IN LAKE COUNTY



Each year, **June 15th** marks **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)**; a global effort to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults. Established in 2006, this important day shines light on an issue that often goes unseen but deeply impacts individuals, families, and communities.

The reality is sobering. **An estimated 1 in 10 older Americans experience some form of abuse each year** yet only a fraction of these cases is ever reported. Many older adults suffer in silence due to isolation, fear, or lack of access to support. That's why community awareness and involvement are critical.

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Lake County Adult Protective Services, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Association of Specialists in Aging, and the Lake County Council on Aging invite residents to attend the 2026 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Participants are encouraged to take part in a community walk beginning at 11:45 a.m. at the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services located at 177 Main St. in Painesville and concluding at the Lake County Administration Building at 105 Main St. The event will include remarks from a featured guest speaker and elected officials. Attendees are encouraged to wear purple—the official color of elder abuse awareness—to show support and solidarity with older adults across Lake County.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS & TAKING ACTION

Everyone has a role to play in protecting older adults. Staying connected with family members, neighbors, and community members can help reduce isolation and increase awareness of potential concerns. Together, we can build a safer, more supportive community where older adults are respected, protected, and valued.

If you suspect an adult (aged 60 or older) is experiencing abuse, neglect, or exploitation, help is available by contacting Lake County Adult Protective Services at (440) 350-4000, press 1. ■



Pet Waste! *(continued from p2)*

stomach cramps and/or diarrhea and are easily transmitted to humans and other animals through the contaminated water and soil.

What can we do? You can help solve pet waste problems by following these simple guidelines.

- Try to clean up pet waste in your yard each day and before it rains.
- Always pick up waste when walking your dog and put it in the trash. Make sure to carry bags with you or tie one or two onto the leash.
- Due to its pathogens, pet waste should not be added to your home compost pile. These pathogens can be picked up by you through hand contact with the soil or from eating vegetables grown in that soil.

- Pet waste should never be left near a curb as rainfall will wash it directly into a nearby storm drain.

For more information or if you would like a "Pick Up After Pets" lawn sign, you can contact the Lake County Stormwater Management Department at (440) 350-5900, visit their website at lakecountyohio.gov/smd, or find them on social media. ■

LAKE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION



STAFF OF THE VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

WE are Veterans Serving Veterans: That's the make-up and motto of the Lake County Veterans Service Center under the operational control of the Veterans Service Commission (VSC). All Veterans Service Center staff are honorably discharged veterans. Presently, we have (7) county Veteran Service Officers and (2) support staff. All employees are required to train through the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and/or the Ohio State Association of County Veteran Service Officers.

Annually, they are required to complete a minimum of 16 hours of training in order to meet the requirements of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers. They must also meet the following requirements; pass an annual test, complete (6) full days of in-person training each year, complete up to (5) hours of online training, pass a recertification test every (5) years, and comply with any

additional requirements imposed by the Department of Veterans Affairs which licenses them to represent veterans before the VA.

They are also recognized to provide these services and represent veterans at the VA on behalf of most large congressionally chartered Veteran Service Organizations such as DAV, American Legion, MCL, VFW, etc.

OUR VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Our staff assists veterans in obtaining benefits to which they may be entitled from any agency or entity by virtue of their honorable service to our Nation. All services are free. We are NOT the VA – we are proud, professional, and dedicated Lake County Employees and residents.

We assist in obtaining Discharges (DD 214, Report of Separation, NGB 22) and Official Military Personnel Files for veterans and if deceased, for their families from other counties, the State of Ohio, and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). We may also be able to assist veterans (not family members) with DPRIS requests for

records depending on dates served.

We provide professional advocacy and assistance in filing for benefits, most notably with the VA. We do NOT decide claims, but we can prepare the forms and provide advice on how to file the most complete and well documented claims. A well-prepared claim, all else being equal, has a greater likelihood of approval and an accurate rating at the appropriate level of disability. We also assist widows and survivors with trying to obtain headstones/markers as well as financial benefits through one of the VA's programs if qualified.

Whatever the benefit, we will assist in obtaining necessary documentation where appropriate, properly prepare any required forms, file with the proper authority, and see your claim through to a decision. Please, let us try and help. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PAY ANYONE** to provide these services for you - they are completely free through us!

VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Veteran Service Commissioners are nominated by any of their Posts in Lake County and appointed by the Presiding Judge to staggered five-year terms. They are jointly responsible for ensuring the Veterans Service Center is functioning and operating in accordance with Title 59 of the Ohio Revised Code and monitoring all spending of taxpayer funds. The Lake County Veterans Service Commission is solely responsible for its operations and staff.

The Veterans Service Commission is made up of five Commissioners. Our



Commission President is Carl Luebking (recommended by the American Legion), Vice President Shawn Banker (recommended by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States), Secretary John Filidoro (recommended by the Disabled Veterans of America), Commissioner Thom Seymour (recommended by the American Veterans), and Commissioner Frank Gron (recommended by the Marine Corps League/Catholic War Veterans).

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUR WORK

The most recent figures released, indicate that in 2024, the VA spent \$193,663,814 in Lake County! Compensation and pension benefits paid directly to veterans for illnesses, injuries or diseases contracted on Active Duty or for disabled war time veterans or their survivors totaled \$91,397,384! That's pure tax-free discretionary income to those veterans who are still suffering as a result of their service to our Nation! The remaining \$102,266,430 spent by the VA is for Direct Medical Care of our veterans. For every \$1.00 spent by the citizens of Lake County, the VA returns \$133.89!

More than 5,300 Lake County veterans used VA Healthcare in 2024. This reduces the burden on local private healthcare providers as well as the

financial impact to Lake County's veterans and other government funded programs. In 2025, our office filed representation paperwork for 743 clients. We filed 963 claims for veterans and/or dependents which included 362 appeals of VA decisions. In total, our office filed 3,630 claims forms with the VA in 2025.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This office is charged with assisting veterans/survivors in times of dire financial hardship. In 2025, we had 310 requests for assistance. The VSC approved 296 applications totaling \$432,613.26 and provided dignified burials to 9 indigent veterans in 2025.

VETERANS RIDE SERVICE

Last year, we paid Laketrans \$21,854.84 to transport 3,893 veterans/aides to and from their medical appointments for a total of 7,786 runs. This FREE door-to-door service for veterans/spouses/aides is coordinated by Laketrans. Honorably discharged veterans simply call Dial-a-Ride at 440-354-6100 to schedule service no less than 2 business days in advance. This includes transportation to any medical appointment, treatment, therapy, or adult day care located within Laketrans' operating zones which includes the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center as well



as the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus and the UH Cleveland Medical Center in Cleveland. Laketrans offers various pickup times to Cleveland, so if you need to catch the shuttle from Cleveland to the Parma VA, schedule accordingly and call early! As a reminder, veterans are required to file their Discharge with our office.

For more information, please visit lakecountyohio.gov/veteran-services. You can email us at veterans@lakecountyohio.gov or call (440) 350-2904. Our office is also open during regular business hours at the Lake County Administration Center, 105 Main Street, Building C, 2nd Floor, Suite 201 if you'd like to stop by in person. ■



Veterans Crisis Line



**DIAL 988 then
PRESS 1**

CHAT AT

VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat

Text 838255

Confidential support is available

24/7



Protect Our Rivers and Lakes: Pick Up Pet Waste!

Have you ever considered what happens to dog waste when it is left on the ground? Pet waste accumulation in urban and suburban areas is a real concern as it can result in harmful effects on our water quality and overall health. A large concentration of dogs living in a small geographic area produces many times the amount of waste of the wildlife population for that same area. If we subscribe to the notion of “Out of Sight, Out of Mind”, the problem will not go anywhere except down the storm drain!

RUNOFF:

Pet waste left on streets, trails, or lawns does not just decompose and fertilize the grass. Pet waste is high in protein and not a good fertilizer. Rain and melting snow carry its bacteria into our ditches, storm drains, streams, and lakes where it can travel for miles.

HUMAN AND PET HEALTH:

Bacteria from dog waste accounts for up to 20% of the bacteria in urban waterways. This bacteria can make it unsafe to wade, fish, or swim in our lakes and rivers. It also contains harmful organisms such as Giardia, Salmonella, and E. coli which contribute to high bacteria levels making rivers unsafe for swimming or fishing. These forms of bacteria can cause intestinal diseases producing

(continued on p5)

LAKE COUNTY FAIR JULY 28 - AUGUST 2



This year, the 171st edition of the Lake County Fair runs July 28th – August 2nd at the county fairgrounds on Mentor Avenue in Painesville Township. The 2026 Fair is presented by Ken Ganley Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Mentor with support from the University Hospital System. Regular General Admission to the fair is only \$12 per day for ages 3 and up and includes rides. On-grounds parking is free.

The schedule is packed with fun for the whole family and features all your favorite traditions and more. A Class A monster truck show and two demolition derbies headline the week's entertainment line-up with motocross racing, a truck and tractor pull, and KOI side-by-side drag racing all returning. Great music, along with Jungle Terry, the Central K9's Performance Dogs, and two Kiddie Tractor Pulls will highlight this year's free acts.



Opening Day, Tuesday July 28th, is “Veterans Day”. There will be free admission to all until 3:00 pm and veterans are admitted free all day. Harness racing will take place the 28th with a noon post time and will feature both colts and fillies. You won't want to miss the opening day parade starting at 6:00 pm featuring as many as 200 units traveling west on Mentor Avenue from Painesville City to the fairgrounds. Tuesday night will also feature the first of two demo derbies to be held this year.

Wednesday is “Family Day” at the fair. Families of four or more will be

admitted for \$10 each which includes ride privileges. In the grandstand, CS Pulling Promotions will put on a pulling event featuring large semi-trucks and a new class of Hot Rod V8 tractors.

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. All-day ride wristbands are available for \$10. Moto-X racing will take place in front of the main grandstand with free admission. Local favorite and now Nashville artist, Nick Walker, will perform at the Lake County Farm Bureau/Merhar Insurance Entertainment Tent.

Friday is “Senior Day” with ages 60 and over free until 3:00 pm. It includes a free boxed lunch while they last and other activities at the entertainment tent. KOI Drag Racing will take place at the grandstand.

Saturday will highlight the annual 4-H livestock auction and a tribute to Americas 250 celebration with bobbleheads of Frances Jennings Casement free for the first 1,000 visitors to stop at the America250 table in the log cabin building. The monster truck show Saturday night will include five nationally known trucks, drivers, and quad wars. Horse pulls will take place in the Plaisted Show Ring.

Sunday will feature “Latino Day” which culminates with the Lake County Demo Derby; the ultimate demolition derby ending with a school bus competition grand finale.

For a complete schedule of events with times, ticket prices, and more information, visit the fair website at lakecountyfair.org. ■



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

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YOU CAN HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS

Sump pumps protect properties from water damage, especially in areas where the water table is high or groundwater seepage is common. They remove water in order to help prevent basements and foundations from flooding by turning on when water collected in drain tiles below the basement floor reaches a certain level.

Water from sump pumps should then be discharged back into the environment and not into the sanitary sewer system. If sump pump water is not discharged correctly, local and regional sanitary sewer pipes can



become overloaded with clear water. During heavy rain events, this can lead to sewer backups and overflows. It only takes a handful of sump pumps that are connected to the sanitary sewer system to

exceed the sanitary sewer's capacity.

If you are able, determine where your sump pump is discharged. If it discharges to the sanitary sewer, please redirect it to a storm sewer or your yard. If you are a Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU) customer, they can help determine where your sump pump discharges by performing a dye test.

Currently, the Lake County Department of Utilities serves Mentor, Concord, Painesville Twp., Perry Village and Twp., North Perry Village, and Madison Village and Twp. To schedule an inspection, call (440) 350-2652. ■

AMERICA



The Celebration Continues!

Our exciting series of community events honoring the United States Semiquincentennial anniversary is only halfway through.

Join us as we continue to commemorate 250 years!

FREE ADMISSION

Independence Day - July 4th - Classic Park

Home of the Lake County Captains

Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening featuring:

- A baseball game starring George Washington vs King George III
- Special Recognition honoring Lake County residents 100+ years of age
- Spectacular fireworks show
- Concessions will be available for purchase

Additional events include:

- June 14th: America250 Community Picnic, Lake County History Center
- June 15th: Smith Cemetery's Reopening Celebration, Willoughby Hills
- June 20th: Rededication of Revolutionary War Patriots Marker, Painesville
- July 3rd: Unveiling of President Garfield Statue, Mentor
- July 4th: 50 Year Time Capsule Opening, Willowick

For a full list of events/updates, visit tourlakecounty.com or America250 on Facebook.