



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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County Contact: Summer Torok
440.350.2220
summer.torok@lakecountyohio.gov

Lake County Recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 4, 2026 – June 15, 2026, marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a meaningful observance recognized across the United States and around the world to raise awareness about the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults, who are often some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Older adults deserve to live with dignity, respect, and security,” said Commissioner President Morris W. Beverage III. “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day reminds us that protecting seniors is a shared responsibility and that speaking up can make a difference.”

An estimated 5 million older Americans, or 1 in 10 adults age 60 and older, experience some form of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation each year. Even more alarming, studies suggest that only 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse are ever reported to authorities. Older adults who lack strong support systems or experience social isolation and loneliness are often at greater risk of mistreatment.

In 2025, the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services received more than 1,000 calls regarding alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation of older adults and provided protective services to approximately 550 vulnerable seniors throughout the community. While the circumstances varied, each case reflected the ongoing need to protect older adults from harm.

“Our agency remains committed to investigating allegations of abuse, neglect or exploitation of older adults in our community. We are grateful for the many concerned citizens and community partners who contact our hotline to report their concerns. By looking out for one another, we are creating a stronger Lake County. Together, we can help ensure that older adults are treated with dignity, respect and compassion, and that those who may be vulnerable have access to the



From the left: Tim Rieder, Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Cristen Kane, Suzanne Casar, Mary Udics, Alyea Barajas, Commissioners Morris W. Beverage III and Morgan R. McIntosh.

protection and support they deserve. Every report made has the potential to make a meaningful difference in someone's life," said JFS Director Suzanne Casar.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners continues to recognize and support World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. During their June 4 meeting, the Board unanimously passed a resolution proclaiming June 15, 2026, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County.

To further raise awareness, the 5th Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk will take place on June 11, 2026, beginning at 11:45 A.M. The walk will start at the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services and conclude at the County Administration Center, where a brief presentation will be held. Community members are welcome to attend, and participants are encouraged to wear purple, the designated color for elder abuse awareness.

"Many older adults experiencing abuse or exploitation suffer in silence," said Commissioner John T. Plecnik. "Recognizing warning signs and reporting concerns can help ensure vulnerable adults receive the support they need."

"Lake County remains committed to ensuring older adults are supported and protected," said Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh. "We are proud to work with our community partners to promote awareness and access to resources."

To report concerns about abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult, please contact the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, Adult Protective Services Division, at (440) 350-4000, option 1. If your organization is interested in training or education on recognizing the signs of elder maltreatment and mandatory reporting, contact Mary Udics at (440) 350-4333.

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