



The Perry BULLETIN BOARD

Vol. 35, No. 4

4th Edition, 2020

From the desk of...

Welcome 2021...not sure if we have ever been so grateful to welcome in a New Year!!!

Shout out to the Service Department for their great work during the Christmas storm. We appreciate their hard work and dedication to keep the roads clear for the residents. During the last snow storm, the Service Department reported that there were cars parked on some of the Township Roads, most specifically in the cul-de-sacs. This creates a safety hazard and makes it very difficult for the snow plow trucks to plow properly. Please refrain from parking in the streets when snow is forecasted.

As I reported in the last edition of the Bulletin Board, the Township has received and expended monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to help respond and recover from the COVID-19. The purchases were all to keep the employees and community members safe when visiting our facilities. The Township also provided PPE to the Perry Center, the Perry Rec. Department and the Perry Senior Holiday Gift baskets. The Township also entered into two sub-recipient grant agreements, one with the Perry Public Library and also with the Perry Joint Fire District. The library was reimbursed \$24,682.49 for expenses that all met the requirements of the CARES laws. The Perry Joint Fire District was reimbursed \$295,913.51 to cover Safety Services Payroll and Support as defined under the CARES Act.

In recent years, we have been in discussions with our State Representatives and Senator regarding the need for funds for additional shoreline protection. It was recently announced that Perry Township is expected to receive \$200,000 for this purpose from the recent Capital Budget Bill. With much help and persistence from Former State Representative Ron Young, State Representative Jamie Callender and Senator John Eklund, we are excited to enter the next phase of our shoreline mitigation on the westside of Township Park. These monies will be used to address the area between our groin system on the west end of the park and the original reventment north of the pavillion. This area falls primarily behind the Lorimer House. We are in the process of dealing with the engineering and procurement costs. We are optimistic to move forward with this project in 2021. Thanks again to Former State Representative Young, State Representative Callender and Senator Eklund!!!

Effective January 18th, the community center will re-open for rentals. COVID-19 is an ever changing situation. All scheduled events at the Community Center will be affected by all COVID-19 restrictions and guidance in place at the time of the event. Senior Center activities are still restricted and we will be following the month-by-month guidance of the Lake County Officials.

We have been planning our paving projects for 2021!! In discussions with the Lake County Engineers Office, they will be accepting bids for the double chip sealing of Blackmore Road and Davis Road for this year. Based on our needs assessment, we have requested that the County Engineer accept bids for the asphalt paving of Lilac Court, Maine Avenue (from Lane Road to Oakbrook Village), Pine Court and Vermont Avenue. Plus, the double chip sealing of Apache Trail and Baldwin Road are on the bidding list. We will be paving our section of Bartwood Road in cooperation with Painesville Township. If we are able to proceed, these projects will be a welcome improvement to the roadways in the Township.

Karen Sundy, Administrator

THE PERRY CENTER

What a year 2020 turned out to be!! We at The Perry Center were able to remain open during this year of the COVID pandemic and continued to serve our clients.

Thanks to the generosity of our community of donors, we were able to assist the 84 families who applied for assistance at Christmas. This year, we focused on the children. Of the 105 children who applied for help, 71 were "adopted" by 23 groups or individuals, 16 received gifts from Sheetz, 9 received Toys4Tots and clothing from The Knights of Columbus and received gifts purchased by The Perry Center.

Although focus was on the children, we didn't want to forget the adults, who also need joy at Christmas. With the many monetary donations for Christmas gifts, we provided each adult with a \$25.00 gift card.

We appreciate the kindness and generosity of the many groups and organizations who held food drives and/or raised money for The Perry Center. They are: **Perry Military Veterans, Nursery Growers of Lake County (also collected hundreds of toys), Girl Scout Service Unit 770, Perry Service Learning students (also had a toy drive), Perry United Methodist Church, Perry Christian Church, First Baptist Church, Grand Manor, Perry Power Plant and United Way.**

We also want to express our gratitude to our member churches who provided various items for the Christmas boxes. They are: **St. Cyprian, Faith Baptist, First Baptist, Perry Unites Methodist, New Life, Lake Erie Church of God and Perry Christian Church.** These churches help all year long with various monetary and food donations. Also, contributing this year was **Bridge Church.**

Special thanks goes to: **West Orchards Farm Market, Rideout's IGA and Perry Schools Maintenance Department and the many, many, many community members who made regular donations.** The support of these businesses, school groups and individuals is not only greatly appreciated, but very vital to our ability to help our clients.

We are also very thankful and appreciative of the many volunteers, without them, we would not be able to carry out our programs. We are, also, grateful for all who volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. We cannot thank all of you enough!

We want to emphasize that The Perry Center is open and serving our community even through the pandemic.

Our regular hours are: **Tuesdays from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM and
Fridays from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

However, if our regular hours are not good for you, you can call or email us and we can make arrangements to assist you at a time more convenient. We can be reached at:

The Perry Center: 440-259-3332 or email: perrycenter@outlook.com

Carole Martin: 440-259-2257; cell 440-897-2574 or email: carolemartin13@gmail.com

Brenda Carr: cell 440-487-8218 or email: blcarr2pieront@gmail.com

We will, again, be providing Easter Baskets to local families. We encourage residents to "adopt" a child, as we do at Christmas. If you would like to help, please contact **Lauren Kowalewski** at The Painted Plank at **440-463-3830** or perrybunnybasket@yahoo.com. Baskets will need to be dropped off at The Perry Center or 3261 Call Road, Perry by March 26th.

NOTE TO OUR CLIENTS: If you call us before you come to the center, we can take your information over the telephone, so when you arrive at the center, you can call us from your car and we will bring your food to you. With the cold weather, this would be best for everyone.

**Brenda Carr and Carole Martin
Co-Administrators**

PERRY CEMETERY



Winter is here and in the cemetery, it can be tricky. Drifting happens quickly and can make navigating the drives a challenge. Waiting until the Road Department has a chance to clear the drives is always the best bet. The other big challenge is the wind. If you place items at graves, make sure they're anchored well and will stay where you place them.

We recently poured foundations toward the end of November. We will be pouring again in late April or early May as soon as the weather cooperates and as work schedule allows. Our main objective is to get everyone's monuments placed by Memorial Day so if we receive orders from the monument companies by April 15th, we should be able to accomplish this.

I'm going to repeat something that I've written about before. I've had questions about what happens to unused graves if parents who own multiple graves pass away. If the graves are designated to someone in a will, the ownership passes directly to that person. To keep things clear, it's a good idea to contact the cemetery & have a new deed prepared in the new owner's name.

If there isn't a will in place that addresses the graves, ownership of the unused graves passes to the next closest living relatives (usually children) who must then decide unanimously in writing how the graves will be used or if they will be reconveyed back to Perry Township.

For parents who wish to simplify this, you may request that your unused graves be deeded to your children who will use them. If you call the Township Office at 440-259-5140, we can prepare deeds that will ensure your children have ownership of the graves you want them to use. There is no cost for this service, but it can definitely save your family some time and aggravation in the future.

As always, if you have questions about the cemeteries or we can help you in any way, please call the Township Office and ask for Jen Taylor, Karen or myself.

**Michele Woltman
Sexton**

PERRY RECREATION

Just wanted to take a moment during this holiday season to thank everyone for all they do to help out the Perry community and Perry Area Joint Recreation District. It has been a real challenge getting through 2020 as you all know. We currently have 7 travel basketball teams competing 3rd grade through 6th grade, and are having a Rec basketball season for most that signed up starting the 2nd week of January. With 5 people in my family working on the front lines of this pandemic, I understand the ups and downs of these times, and, as a parent, and a retired teacher and coach, I understand the tough decisions all of you are having to make between safety and keeping your young student athletes as active as possible.



Thank you all for doing your best to follow our safety guidelines. The year 2020 is over, but we are not out of the battle. We want to have a wonderful spring and summer, so continue making the best decisions for your individual families. I would like to send out a special thank you to Dr. Jack Thompson, Athletic Director TJ Rockwell, the entire school board, the entire Rec board, the staff at the township offices, and the Perry Service Learning teachers and students for all their hard work and support over the past year. Continue working hard to keep Perry a wonderful and safe community for all.

**Mike Smith
Perry Area Joint Recreation District Director**

PERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Perry Historical Society functions remain on hold due to the COVID-19 virus still having an affect on our country and around the world. Ordinarily, the society does close its doors during the winter months for the first three months of each year, but it was hoped by all, that the reported crisis would be contained by now. Sadly, it remains to be a problem, let's hope by the next issue, there will be brighter news to report. In spite of all the sadness though, thanks and credit are given to members of the society who bravely took the time to decorate the museum grounds with outside Christmas lighting and the Christmas wreath adorning the front door of the museum. During the dark nights of winter, most especially this year, it's a beautiful sight to see when passing by.

With functions of the society pretty much presently on hold at this time, the murder story of Perry's Edward West and Velma Von Woert that took place on December 7, 1927 remains to be popular with many who were unaware of the news that rocked this part of the country nearly one hundred years ago. The following "little bit of Perry history" tells the ending of the interesting story that made Perry history front page news way back then. The story in the last issue ended where Velma West was found guilty of murdering her husband Eddie West. She was sentenced to life in prison at Marysville State Reformatory for Women.

Velma West was not happy with her prison life and in desperation, she attempted suicide when the parole board denied her release from prison. Yet, she never stopped yearning for freedom and life outside those prison walls. But after many years of parole denials, Velma finally accepted her life behind prison bars. It is reported that she became an ideal prisoner. Throughout the following years, she became friends with Mrs. Margarite Reilly, the head of prisoners at the Marysville reformatory. Mrs. Reilly, in observing Velma, seriously thought that Velma had completely changed. She made Velma a trustee, she was given more responsibilities, and eventually was given the keys to the prison. One of her responsibilities was to conduct visitors as they came to visit the reformatory. In her duties, she had the opportunity to become friends with three other women who were also serving time for different crimes they had committed. She found out that they all had plans to escape together when the opportunity came. After finding out that Velma, trusted by Mrs. Reilly, had the keys to the prison, the three ladies talked Velma into joining them knowing that she too, wanted to taste the life of freedom outside the prison walls. In 1939, their chance came and all escaped together. But before escaping, Velma left a note to the trusting Mrs. Reilly that she hoped to be forgiven for taking the one chance she had to make her way to freedom.

While walking along the road, a truck driver passing by spotted them and stopped his van to pick them up. Their money was then earned by giving up their bodies to those who generously paid for the four women willing to make a living in cheap rooming places. In Richmond, Virginia, when one of the women attempted to rob one of the men of his money, the land lady heard the ruckus of what was going on and kicked them all out. At this point Velma was then ready to turn herself in, but was heatedly refused by others. They ended up in Dallas, Texas and to earn a living, Velma found a job of serving beer and dancing most the night with men that found her attractive. While there, she got friendly with a new lady, who unknowingly to Velma, happen to be an informant for one of the detectives who knew that her partner was Velma West. On July 25, 1939, after forty days of freedom, both Velma and one of the other ladies who had escaped with her, were caught by the detectives. Although the other two escapees had gone their way, several weeks later, they too, were caught and all four ladies were sent back to the Marysville Prison for Women.

Velma had tasted freedom and was not sorry that she did, she was heard saying "it was worth it all rather than spending my days for the rest of my life in prison".

During her last years in prison, she developed a mild heart condition and turned to writing and the composing of music and poetry. Most of her songs leaned towards religious music and she converted to Catholicism. She claimed to others that she prayed for the soul of Eddie, the husband she has murdered years before. In the spring of 1959 when once again she was denied parole, she knew then that all her hopes of freedom were gone. After 32 years in prison and with all hopes gone, Velma (Van Woert) West died in prison on October 24, 1959.

Source: The writers' details of the story were found in the archives of the Perry Historical Society's file, as reported by Cleveland Press, Painesville Telegraph, Painesville Court West Case and the Master Detective magazine.

A very happy New Year is extended to the Perry community from all members of the Perry Historical Society.

Mary L. Platko
Historian

THE PERRY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

While COVID-19 disrupted this past year for many of us, our hearts remained full as we saw how local organizations stepped forward to support and help families in Perry during these unprecedented times. Despite the cancellation of our infamous annual fundraiser (the Bunny Lunch) due to the pandemic, we were still able to find ways to promote the welfare and development of the Perry community and its citizens. With the money raised from prior fundraising efforts, we were fortunate to again be able to award \$500 scholarships this past May to two deserving high school seniors who exemplified service to our community. We were also able to provide full Thanksgiving meals to three Perry families (12 individuals), as well as items to fill their pantries in November. In December, The Perry Center provided the PWL with names and Christmas “wish lists” for 10 Perry children (across three families) so that PWL members could purchase items for these ‘adopted’ families to help make their Christmas a bit more special. It was an uplifting experience to also work alongside The Perry Center, local church members, and PSL students to help distribute food and gifts to families in need.

The Perry Women’s League is able to offer these programs in large part because the support of our community. Whether you are someone who attends our annual Bunny Lunch or a local business who donates items to help with fundraising, you all have a hand in our ability to serve others. Thank you for your continued support each year!

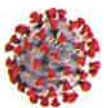
We look forward to 2021 with the continuation of our current board members leading the way: President Theresa Wetzel, Vice President Cheryl Evanchick, Secretary Carrie Scales, and Treasurer Mary Strahan. The PWL board wants to sincerely thank our long-standing members and we are thrilled to welcome some new members this past year! Their devotion is unwavering and inspirational, especially in times like these. We welcome anyone who is looking for a way to give back to our community to join us. Contact us to learn more or stop by one of our meetings, held quarterly the first Thursday of January, April, July, and October at 7 p.m. at the Perry Public Library.

Watch for more details on our 2021 events as we step foot into the new year. Please Visit us on our website: www.perry-lake.org/PerryWomensLeague.aspx or follow us on Facebook (The Perry Women’s League). You can also write/email perrywomensleague@hotmail.com.

Again, thank you to all who have so generously supported us. On behalf of the Perry Women’s League, we wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Carrie Scales
Secretary

COVID-19 DATA, VACCINE UPDATES & RESOURCES



For updates on the above, please check the Lake County General Health District website at www.lcghd.org. This information is changing daily, and local information will be updated regularly on this site.



2021



Special Collections

**1301 MENTOR AVE., PAINESVILLE TOWNSHIP
ENTER FROM MENTOR AVE. ONLY**

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS: All items must be in the trunk area of the vehicle or trailer when permissible. Any items located in the front/back seat will NOT be accepted.

Residential waste only, business waste PROHIBITED.



Electronics Collection - April 24 & August 14, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE Event.

All personal data is secure as all hard drives are professionally erased in a secure facility.

ACCEPTED: Battery back-ups, cable boxes, CD/DVDs, CD/VCR/DVD players, cell phones, circuit boards, coffee makers, computers/towers, curling irons, digital cameras, digital office phones, docking stations, fax machines, game systems, hairdryers, hard drives, keyboards, laptops, microphones, microwaves, modems/networking, printers, radios, scanners, servers, speakers switches, tablets, toasters, wires/cables, typewriters, vacuums and most other corded or rechargeable household electronics. **PROHIBITED:** Any item on a trailer, any large appliances (stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, etc.), batteries (alkaline, wet cell, dry cell), any light bulb, carbon monoxide detectors, exercise equipment (bike, elliptical, treadmill, etc.), cassette tapes, broken/bare CRTs, gas-powered equipment, freon containing devices/materials (refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, etc.), household hazardous waste, materials containing liquids, devices containing liquid mercury (thermostats, switches, medical devices, thermometers), PCB containing materials, propane tanks, radioactive materials, smoke detectors.



Tire Collection - May 1, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Fees may apply.

ACCEPTED: Up to six (6) car or light-truck tires unmounted from the rim will be accepted for FREE. Additional tires unmounted are \$2 each, tires mounted on a rim are \$4 each and oversized tires are \$10 each paid by *cash/check only.



Television Collection - May 8 & August 14, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Fees may apply.

ACCEPTED: Flat/LCD/Plasma screens any size are FREE, screens sized smaller than 21 inches are \$5 each and screens sized larger than 21 inches or projection & console sets are \$10 each paid by *cash/check only.
PROHIBITED: Any item on a trailer and any other type of electronics.



Hazardous Waste Collection - June 5 & September 25 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE event.

ACCEPTED: Motor oil, gasoline, coolants, antifreeze, grease, oil-based paints, varnish, shellacs, stains, aerosols, polyurethanes, primers & grout. Bulbs & batteries of any size or kind. Fluorescent bulbs, household cleaners & solvents. Thinners, kerosene, turpentine, lighter fluid & paint strippers. Pool, lawn, & garden chemicals. Pesticides, weed killers, spray insecticides, "hobby" chemicals, mercury, empty propane tanks, roofing tars, drive sealers, & adhesives. **PROHIBITED:** Ammunition, explosives, medical waste including prescription medicines, smoke alarms, or any other item not on the accepted list.



Sponsored by the The Lake County Board of Commissioners,
Solid Waste District, Ohio State Extension, and the Department of Utilities.
For specific questions call (440) 350-2908 or (440) 350-5766

PERRY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT



I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Holiday Season. This year has presented many challenges in the wake of COVID-19. The holidays saw many different kinds of celebrations than years before. Safety precautions have been instituted state wide as we try to keep citizens safe. We, at Perry Joint Fire District, have guidelines as well. You must wear a mask and have your temperature checked before entering the building. This will help ensure the safety of our employees as well as yourself. Please remember if you are going to gather, do it safely. Wear a mask, maintain 6 feet social distancing and keep the gathering small if possible. As the winter weather begins, please make sure if you have a fire hydrant on your property to keep it clear. It will make our job easier being able to access the hydrant in case of an emergency. Addresses are also of a concern when responding. Many times, a mailbox is used to confirm an address to a particular call. In the winter months, they may be covered with snow or damaged by plowing. Please try to have an adequate display of your address so the crews can find you. Please drive careful and have a safe and healthy 2021.

Chief James McDonald

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Did you realize that a smoke alarm will not always work, even if it has new batteries? That is just one of the many New Year fire safety tips from the Perry Fire District that you need to keep in mind as you bring in 2021. Staying safe as you bring in the New Year is important so that you can enjoy the time with friends and family. No matter if you're in an apartment or home, these fire safety tips can help you to reduce risk and enjoy a safe New Year celebration.

KNOW YOUR SMOKE ALARM

Smoke alarms actually have a shelf life. That means they don't always last and need to be changed out from time to time. These items need to be replaced approximately every 10 years or so. Make sure you check the date and batteries in the alarm to ensure your safety. So many tragic instances could be prevented simply by having a working smoke alarm in the home. If you remove batteries from the alarm, put them right back in. This simple mistake could cost you your life or an injury during a fire.

EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY

Make sure that your family knows what to do if a fire breaks out in the home. Part of your Perry Fire District fire safety is to have an escape route planned out and practiced. Talk with your children about where to go and what to do if the smoke alarm goes off. Education is KEY to making sure everyone gets out safely in the event of a fire.

GET NEW APPLIANCES

While you may be trying to get every last minute out of your favorite appliance, choose to be safe, not sorry. Older appliances that have been used a lot can cause a fire when you least expect it. Make sure to check the cords on the items you're using and ensure that everything is still intact. When in doubt, throw it out.

WATCHFUL EYE

Never leave any food that is cooking unattended. You want to make sure someone responsible is in the kitchen at all times, keeping an eye out for issues. Fires starting from cooking food are one of the leading reasons that homes are destroyed. Make sure you always check the stove and oven before leaving the kitchen as well.

TURN OFF THE HEATERS

When you use space heaters, be sure you do not go to sleep with them still on. Keep them a safe distance away from curtains, furniture and clothing to prevent fire safety issues. If you can try not to use power strips, surge protectors, instead use a properly rated extension cord.

These are just a few ways you can help prevent a tragedy this New Year, while keeping your family safe during the celebration. Contact the Perry Joint Fire District for more safety tips and ideas to help your condo, apartment, or home protected throughout 2021.

Captain Timothy Sitz

PERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

After thirty years of amazing service to our library and community, Ray Malone has retired from our Board of Trustees. The Perry Public Library Association elected Larry Reichard as our new trustee. We thank Ray for his contributions over the years and look forward to Larry's tenure as a trustee.



With some of our CARES Act money, we purchased Chromebooks for our patrons to check out for week-long use. We know that when we are closed to visitors it is tough on everyone, but especially our computer users. We hope the the Chromebooks help to alleviate some of that difficulty for our patrons.

We have some fun virtual programs coming up in January!

- Grab-and-go craft activities for all ages
- Tweens & teens can join Miss Marissa via Zoom on January 11, February 22, and March 15 at 4:30 for her new inclusivity club "That's the tea."
- DO you want to use Zoom but don't know where to start? Give us a call to set up a phone session with Scott to learn Zoom at your own pace!
- Registration is now open for our virtual Story Times
- Call 259-3300 or go to perrypubliclibrary.org to register for these and other programs.

All of us at Perry Public Library would like to thank you for your patience and support in 2020. We hope 2021 brings us all a sense of normalcy and a return to being together. We miss you!

Emily Skunda
Director of Perry Public Library

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Website:
perrytownship-lake.com

Administration & Cemetery
Offices:

3740 Center Rd.
259-5140

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To reach the Cemetery Sexton
call (440) 417-2010

Zoning Office:
3840 Middle Ridge Rd.
259-1004

Fire District:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Non-Emergency Phone
259-2880

EMERGENCY ONLY - 911

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