

Road & Parks Dept. News

Fire Dept. Updates

Police Dept. Updates

Zoning Dept. News

PERRY TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE 3111 Hilton Street NW Massillon, OH 44646

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WINTER 2026



# PERRY Township News

## Your Perry Township Board of Trustees



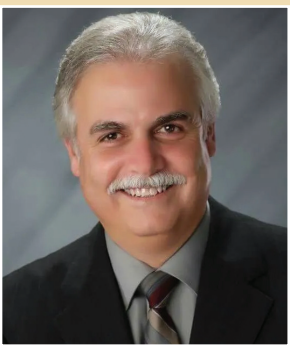
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## A Message from Trustee Matt Miller

MORE SO THAN AT ANY POINT IN THE LAST FOUR YEARS I AM FILLED WITH A SENSE OF OPTIMISM FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. What makes 2026 so exciting? A number of initiatives that have been in development are starting to take off and get to a point where we can start taking action.

### COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Township Master Plan has been completed and is already being put into action as it guides our conversation, planning, and pursuit of funding in several areas. The plan covers the entire township, however there are two main areas of focus (Lincoln Way & Parks) that we are already working on.

### PARKS

Improvements to Fasnacht are underway thanks to a grant from ODNR and a donation from the Perry Project Group. Phase 1 involves moving the driveway to a location



approved by the Stark County Engineers office and the addition of a dedicated parking lot. Already completed is the lower parking lot off of Meadowwood St. The lower lot will provide a 2nd access point to a mowed walking path set to open this Spring and the upper lot will serve our community gardeners as well as have access to the path. Remaining grant funds and future Phases will address the structures on the property and expand the public offerings.

### LINCOLN WAY

The Lincoln Way Corridor, State Route 172, is full of opportunities for improvement, and we are exploring several. From an aesthetic perspective, we are early in the process of adopting architectural standards. These standards would initially be utilized by our Zoning Department & Commission, with the potential for a standalone Architectural Review Board in the future.

One of the challenges of evoking change along a state route

is the limited authority that Townships have. The Ohio Department of Transportation is the primary authority for the route; however, the State, County, and Township have a shared desire to address unsafe roadway conditions. This common goal is the opportunity for all three of these groups to come together in a way that improves the main thoroughfare through the Township.

### LEADING LEADERS

Leadership within our township departments dominated much of the last four years. Filling our ranks with people of great character, high integrity, and excellent skills has been a goal from day one, and it seems as if Perry Township is in a position where the upcoming year holds tremendous potential. As new department heads settle into their positions and staffing levels reach their desired marks, we turn our focus to maximizing positive community impact.

First, this is a call to action for Township Employees. Consider your shift, team, or co-workers and ask yourself, how can I be a greater force for good amongst my peers? What area(s) of my job can I make a positive impact? I love the phrase, "everyone on the team is needed, but no one is necessary." From the top of the organization to the most recent hire... everyone is needed, but it is also true that no one is above the team.

This same charge applies to the community at large. Where can you be a force for good in your own home, community, or workplace? I've written before that each person has battles that they are facing, sometimes publicly and other times in silence, but any of us can look beyond ourselves to help someone in need. This act of humility is a form of leadership that I believe can change a family, a company, or a township. These opportunities are everywhere but can only be found if you are looking for them and are easily missed when we are wrapped up in our own mess.

No matter who you are or when you're reading this, my encouragement is to NOT WAIT. It doesn't need to be a grand plan; it could be a simple text message to someone that would love to hear from you.

It has to start somewhere; it has to start sometime. What better place than here, what better time than now?

*Matt Miller*

**WINTER REMINDERS FOR A CLEAN & SAFE COMMUNITY**

**Vehicles**  
 ♦ Registered • Operational ♦ Parked on paved or gravel driveways only

**No seasonal "storage" outdoors**  
 ✘ No flat tires, missing parts, broken glass, or vehicles on jacks

**Trash & Recycling**  
 ✘ Secure lids • No overflow • Bring containers back from the street between pickups

Help our plow crews — help your neighbors — help Perry shine

## Sign Up to Help Shape the Future of Perry Township

Perry Township values transparency, open communication, and community input. As our township grows, we want to hear what matters most to you.

We're inviting residents to volunteer and share feedback on priorities like safety, planning, parks, community services, and overall quality of life.

### Scan the QR Code to Get Involved

Complete a short form to choose how you'd like to participate or email us at [office@perrytwp.com](mailto:office@perrytwp.com). Your information will only be used for engagement efforts.



### Ways to Participate:

- Take part in surveys on township initiatives
- Join small focus groups on key topics
- Recommend your community organization for an engagement session
- Help bring township discussions to your neighborhood, school, or civic group

*Your input helps us make informed decisions, improve services, and ensure changes reflect real community priorities. Thank you for helping us build a safe, welcoming Perry Township!*

## Making Township Payments Easier Online

Perry Township is committed to making it easier for residents to access services and take care of township payments in a way that fits their schedule and daily lives. We've introduced a new secure online payment portal that allows you to pay township fees and bills when and how it's most convenient for you.

Residents can now pay using credit cards, debit cards, or ACH (electronic bank account) payments from the comfort of home or on the go.

You can use the online portal to pay for:

- Fire & EMS billing
- Zoning permits and application fees
- Road Department fees
- Police and parking fees
- Other township service payments



Our goal is simple: to remove barriers, save residents time, and make township services more accessible. Whether you're juggling work, family, or a busy schedule, the new portal gives you the flexibility to make payments 24/7.

What residents can expect:

- Convenient access anytime, from any device
- Multiple payment options - credit, debit, and ACH bank transfers
- A secure and easy-to-use system
- Faster processing and fewer delays

To make a payment, visit the online payment page at: [heartlandpaymentservices.net/webpayments/PerryTWPFireEMS/bills](https://heartlandpaymentservices.net/webpayments/PerryTWPFireEMS/bills) OR simply scan the QR code above.

If you ever have questions or need help using the portal, our team is here for you. Please email [office@perrytwp.com](mailto:office@perrytwp.com), and we'll be happy to assist.

This upgrade reflects our ongoing commitment to improving customer service, supporting residents, and making it easier to connect with your township, on your terms and on your time.

## Planning Ahead: Yard Waste Service Changes Coming Soon

We understand how valuable yard waste disposal is to our residents, and we're exploring options to keep this service available. With the current grant that funded yard waste disposal ending, there's a gap we need to address and if we're able to move forward, the program will likely look and operate differently than before.

Our goal is to find a solution that works for our community, and we appreciate your patience and support as we work through this process. We will continue to share updates in the coming months as we work toward a new, sustainable plan that best serves our community.

*Thank you for your understanding and continued cooperation as we navigate this transition.*

## Perry Township 2026 Holiday Office Closure Schedule

January 1st - New Years' Day  
January 19th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
February 16th - Presidents' Day  
May 25th - Memorial Day  
June 19th - Juneteenth  
July 3rd - Independence Day  
September 7th - Labor Day  
October 12th - Columbus Day  
November 11th - Veterans' Day  
November 26-27 - Thanksgiving  
December 25 - Christmas Day

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Perry Township Road Department maintains 150 miles of roadway. The cost of paving 1 mile is approximately \$140,000 to \$150,000.*



**Hello Perry Township,**  
*It is my honor to be your Ohio State Representative.*

*Please feel free to contact me anytime via email at [rep50@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep50@ohiohouse.gov) or by phone at 614.466.9078 with any questions or concerns.*

*Matt Kishman*

## DID YOU KNOW?

*The Road Department used 4,600 tons of salt last year salting the roads. We purchase our salt through group pricing with 71 other government entities in Ohio to save money. The cost of salt increased by over 40% from last year. We have 6,000 tons in the salt dome for this upcoming winter.*



**John Wellman,**  
Public Works Director

## Director's Message

### Fasnacht Park Update

We're excited to share that improvement work is underway at Fasnacht Park! Crews are grading the property to add parking and build a new driveway entrance from Jackson Avenue, making access easier and safer for residents, visitors, and first responders. The new entrance and parking area will improve visibility and create a welcoming arrival for families and neighbors. This work also prepares the land for future enhancements while preserving the park's natural beauty.

As the area takes shape, the open space may offer fresh seasonal opportunities from peaceful winter

walks to sledding after a snowfall. Thank you for your patience and support as we invest in Fasnacht Park and create a place for everyone to gather and enjoy the outdoors.

### Winter Driving Safety Tips

Slow down, increase your following distance, and brake gently when roads are slick. Carry a small emergency kit in your car with essentials like: blanket(s), gloves, hats, flashlight, water, snacks, shovel, ice scraper. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable winter!

## Working Together for Safe Winter Roads



Winter weather can be challenging, and our goal in Perry Township is to keep roads as safe and accessible as possible for residents, families, and first responders. To support this, a snow-parking ban goes into effect whenever two inches or more of snow has accumulated or is expected to accumulate.

Moving vehicles off the roadway gives plow drivers the space they need to clear streets safely and helps emergency vehicles travel without delay. Vehicles left in the street may be towed or ticketed for safety reasons. Snow-parking ban notices are shared through Nixle, social media, and the Perry Township website.

Our Road Department is committed to serving the community during winter storms. There are 9 full-time drivers maintaining more than 150 miles of roads (over 300 lane miles). During major storms, it may take up to 20 hours after snowfall ends to fully clear every road.

When plowing, we prioritize main roads first, then secondary roads, and finally cul-de-sacs and dead ends. Crews first open roads, then return for further clearing. We appreciate your patience, especially when snow is pushed back towards driveways which is unavoidable.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Move vehicles off the road into private driveways during snow events.
- During a snow emergency, ALL vehicles must be removed from roadways or risk towing and/or ticketing.
- Do not throw snow back into the street.
- Remove basketball hoops from the road right-of-way.
- Trim trees so branches don't extend into the roadway.
- Keep fire hydrants clear of snow.
- Secure your mailbox properly.
- Wait to shovel your driveway until plows finish their final pass.

**Thank you for working with us to keep Perry Township safe and moving all winter long. Together, we can keep Perry Township safe and accessible this winter!**

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Renee' Schalmo: The Heart of Perry Township's Road Department

Renee' Schalmo has been an essential part of the Road Department for the past 10 years, serving as the Administrative Assistant and a central point of coordination between the Public Works Director and our residents.



Renee' manages communications, record keeping, and documentation for township infrastructure, maintenance, and public works initiatives. Her responsibilities include:

- Processing payroll and purchase orders
- Managing road opening permits
- Assisting with budgeting through the Ohio Uniform Accounting Network (UAN)
- Preparing resident notices and newsletters
- Coordinating bid packets and grant materials

Renee' and her husband, Steve, have been married for 24 years and have two children. When she's not keeping things organized at the township, Renee' enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Roads Budget:** The current Road Department Operations Budget is set at \$2,774,856.45 which covers equipment, salt, roadway maintenance, culverts, catch basins, drainage issues, and staffing.

**Roads Revenue:** After a Road levy expired in 2024 (\$540,175 in revenue), the Road Department currently receives income from the following sources:

- 2 mil 1986 levy: \$727,945 (will expire in 2026)
- Inside Millage: \$1,379,919
- Gasoline Tax: \$480,000
- Motor Vehicle Tax: \$186,173
- TOTAL: \$2,774,037**

## Not a Township Road? Here's Who to Call

Not every road in Perry Township is maintained by our Road Department. Some roads are controlled by other agencies. See a list of those roads and who to contact below.

### ODOT Maintains (330-452-0365)

- Erie Ave S / State Route 21
- Tuscarawas Street W – Lincoln Way East – State Route 172
- State Route 236
- Richville Dr. (from US 30 to Faircrest)
- Faircrest St.
- State Route 627
- Raff Rd.

### Stark County Engineers Maintain (330-477-6781)

- Fohl St.
- Hankins St.
- Navarre Rd.
- Perry Dr.
- Shepler Church Ave.
- Southway St.
- 12th St. NW
- Carmont
- Sherman Church Ave.
- Orrville St.
- Woodlawn Ave.
- Whipple Ave. (North of SR 172)

### Canton Township Maintains (330-484-6734)

- Whipple SW by Shepler Church

### Massillon City Maintains (330-833-5746)

- Richville Dr. (from US 30 to Southway)



# FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



**Fire Chief Larry Sedlock**  
 lsedlock@perrytwp.com • 330-833-3865

## Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! As we begin the new year, I sincerely hope you and your families had a festive holiday season and were able to take some time to relax.

Throughout the holidays, our department remained committed to serving those who called upon us for assistance. As of the time of this newsletter, our department has responded to 3,789 calls this year, with more still to come before year's end.

Since the last newsletter, the department has been extremely busy beyond emergency response. I had the opportunity to speak with several community groups, providing general and seasonal safety information, while also answering questions regarding our department, operations, equipment and apparatus, staffing, and finances. These interactions proved to be educational not only for those in attendance, but for me as well. Additionally, Fire Prevention continues its important work of keeping our businesses and their patrons safe through inspections, safety training, and educational presentations.

Because of your continued support and kindness, we have been able to add full-time staffing to better ensure that you are protected to the best of our ability whenever you may need us.

Should the need arise, please know that we are here for you. Simply dial 9-1-1, and we will be there for you, just as you have been there for us.

As we ring in the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

*Sincerely, Fire Chief Larry Sedlock*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Halle Wright

Halle joined the Perry Township Fire Department as a full-time Firefighter/Paramedic in the fall of 2025. She is a graduate of Canton South High School, Class of 2018. She previously attended Perry High School's Teaching Academy and later earned a degree in Early Childhood Education from The Ohio State University.



In 2023, Halle made a significant career transition, following in the footsteps of her father and sister by entering the fire and emergency medical services field. She completed EMT and fire training before advancing to paramedic school. During her paramedic education, Halle completed most of her clinical hours with the Perry Township Fire Department. Throughout that time, she was encouraged by members of the department now her coworkers to apply for a full-time position upon completion of her training. Halle is a tremendous asset to our department, and we are honored to have her as part of our team.

## WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS



### Stay Warm, Stay Safe This Winter

Winter has arrived! Whether you're using a furnace, fireplace, wood burner, or portable heater to stay cozy, safety should always come first.

Here are some tips to help protect your home and family during the cold months:

#### Fireplace Safety

- Schedule an annual chimney check with a professional
- Keep the flue open before starting a fire and until embers are completely out
- Burn the right wood (dry, seasoned wood for less smoke/buildup)
- Clear the area of furniture, drapes, and other flammables
- Use a glass or metal screen to prevent sparks from escaping
- Extinguish fire completely before leaving or going to bed
- Dispose of ashes safely in a metal container with a lid, at least three feet from your home
- Supervise children and keep a fire extinguisher handy

#### Wood Burners

- Have them professionally installed and maintained
- Follow the same safety tips as fireplaces

#### Portable Heater Tips

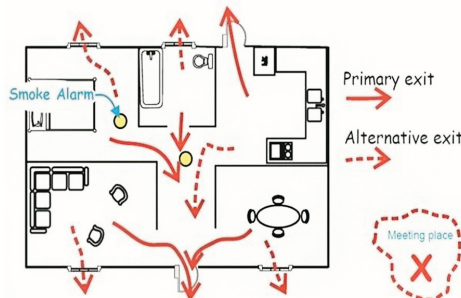
- Place heaters on a hard, level, nonflammable surface (never on tables)
- Keep at least 3 feet away from furniture, bedding, and curtains
- Plug directly into an outlet (no extension cords)
- Never leave heaters unattended

#### Furnace & Hot Water Tank

- Keep items at least 3 feet away from your furnace.
- Schedule annual service by an HVAC professional.

#### General Safety

- Don't overload outlets
- Use battery-powered candles
- Never use charcoal or gasoline devices indoors
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking
- Close bedroom doors when sleeping
- If there's a fire: Stay low and go! Get out immediately!
- Have an escape plan and a safe meeting place



*A little preparation goes a long way toward keeping your home safe and cozy. Thank you for helping make Perry Township a safe and welcoming community!*



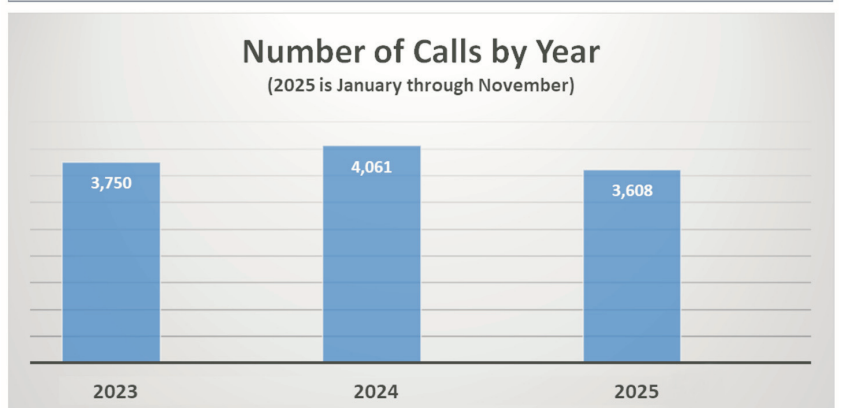
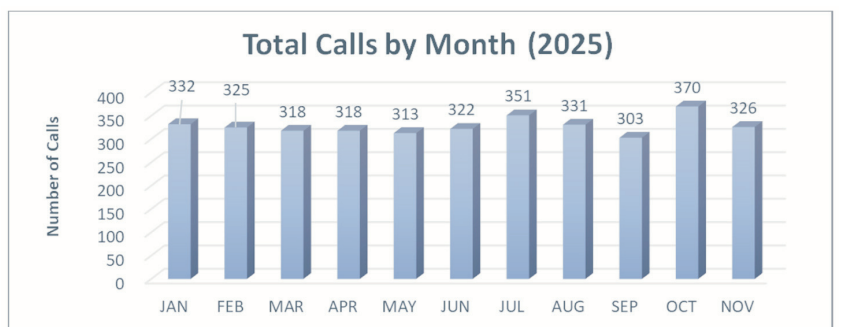
### Enhancing Rescue Safety with Res-Q-Jack

Keeping our community safe starts with protecting both patients and first responders during emergencies. One of the most important steps in vehicle crash rescues is stabilizing the vehicle. We recently added the Res-Q-Jack vehicle stabilizing system to our toolkit. This new system allows our crews to stabilize vehicles quickly and securely regardless of position.

Faster stabilization means faster extractions and safer conditions for everyone, including more time focused on patient care. Res-Q-Jack also reduces physical strain on firefighters by minimizing heavy lifting and repetitive movements, helping prevent injuries during long or complex rescues.



Our team continues to train on this equipment to ensure it's used effectively alongside traditional methods. This investment reflects our ongoing commitment to safety, efficiency, & better outcomes for the people we serve.





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and we're honored  
to share that...*

**The Kara Kirkbride Group  
is the #1 Real Estate Team  
in Perry Township for 2025**



*With gratitude, we helped 40+ families buy,  
sell, and move with confidence this past year.  
Your trust, referrals, and support  
mean everything to us.*

*Here's to another year of  
guiding our community home.*

**Kara Kirkbride** 330-323-1994  
[karakirkbride@howardhanna.com](mailto:karakirkbride@howardhanna.com)



*"Real Estate is my passion, and referrals are my driving force because Kara Cares!!!"*



# POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



**Police Chief Bryan Taylor**  
btaylor@perry.police.com • 330-478-5121

## A Winter Message

As the winter season settles over Perry Township, our community starts to glow a little brighter. The lights, the traditions, the laughter at local events, and the generosity we see each year remind me just how special this township is.

From Trunk-or-Treat to school celebrations to our Veterans Wish Tag board, our officers have loved sharing these moments with you. Connecting with families, talking with kids, and seeing neighbors come together is the highlight of our year. It reflects the spirit that makes Perry Township more than just a place to live. It makes a community that feels like family.

Even as the weather turns colder, your Perry Township Police Department remains committed to serving you with warmth, compassion, and professionalism. Whether we're patrolling the streets, helping families in need, or simply waving to your little ones from a cruiser, we're grateful to be part of your holiday season and your everyday lives.

On behalf of the entire department, I wish you a safe, joyful, and peaceful winter. May your homes be filled with comfort, kindness, and memorable moments with the people who matter most. Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Warm regards, *Chief Taylor*

## A Year of Community Moments: 2025 with the Perry Township Police Department



As 2025 comes to a close, we're celebrating a year filled with connection, growth, and countless moments that reminded us why Perry Township is such a special place to live and serve. From new beginnings to proud traditions, this year was packed with community spirit. Here's a look at the highlights that made 2025 unforgettable.

**Welcoming New Faces:** PTPD continued to grow in 2025 with four new officer hires, bringing fresh energy, dedication, and heart to the department. Watching them step into their roles, engage with residents, and become part of the Perry family has been one of our favorite parts of the year.

**An Honorable Retirement:** We also celebrated one meaningful milestone this year – a well-deserved retirement. It's always an honor to recognize a career built on service, commitment, and care for our township.

**Movie Night at Hartwick Park:** Families filled the lawn at Hartwick Park for our Movie in the Park night. There were plenty of blankets, snacks, and lots of excited kids.

**Safety Town Success:** 2025's Safety Town once again brought together excited young learners eager to master the basics of traffic and personal safety. Watching them 'drive' through town, practice safe habits, and proudly share what they learned is a tradition we value.

**Recruiting, Training, & Education:** This year was filled with professional growth and community outreach:

- Multiple recruiting events brought new faces into the world of public safety.
- Four officers completed Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), enhancing our department's ability to respond compassionately during mental health crises.
- Detectives led and participated in fraud prevention seminars, empowering residents with tools to protect themselves.

**Proud Student Escorts:** From athletics to academics, Perry students impressed us all year long – and we were honored to provide multiple state-bound escorts. These

## WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

### Perry Township Police Welcomes Three New Officers

We're proud to introduce three new full-time officers to the Perry Township Police Department:

- Officer Anthony Nicholson - August 5, 2025**
- Officer Devin Lyons - August 19, 2025**
- Officer Rachel Simpson - October 21, 2025**

These additional hires fulfill the commitment made during the 2023 Police Levy campaign to strengthen public safety and enhance staffing.

Although the levy passed in 2023, funds were received in 2025, and the department took deliberate steps to select officers who reflect the professionalism and community values Perry Township deserves.

"Our goal was never to simply fill positions," said Chief Bryan Taylor. "We set out to find high-quality, educated officers who would strengthen our department and community for years to come."

With these additions, the department is better equipped for community engagement, proactive policing, and meeting the evolving needs of residents. Thank you to Perry Township residents and the Board of Trustees for your trust and support. Your investment in public safety makes this possible.



Officer Nicholson



Officer Lyons



Officer Simpson

cruiser-led send-offs are one of our favorite ways to celebrate our young people and cheer them on.

**Celebrating Excellence Within the Department:** 2025 brought well-deserved recognition for our officers:

- Officer Dale received the prestigious Combat Cross Award for exceptional courage and performance.
- Officer Blanc was named School Resource Officer of the Year, reflecting her dedication to keeping students safe, supported, and connected.

**Cops & Bobbers:** Our community reeled in another fun-filled Cops & Bobbers event this year! With plenty of laughs, learning moments, and a few tangled lines, this fishing tradition is always a favorite among officers and families.

**Exceptional Olympics:** The Exceptional Olympics captured hearts once again. Officers loved cheering on the athletes, celebrating their achievements, and being part of one of the most uplifting days of the year.

**Seatbelt Safety Challenges:** PTPD partnered with Safe Communities for the Seatbelt Challenge at Perry High School and Central Catholic, promoting safe driving habits and keeping students informed and engaged.

**Cookout With Cops & Keep Seniors Driving Event:** Two of the biggest community events of the year – Cookout with Cops and Keep Seniors Driving Event brought residents together for food, fun, education, and meaningful conversations with officers. These events continue to strengthen relationships across the township.

**Oktoberfest & Parade:** The fall season was full of energy with Oktoberfest and the parade, drawing big crowds and plenty of festive spirit. Officers enjoyed meeting residents, participating in the parade, and celebrating alongside the community.

**9/11 Memorial Stair Climb & National Night Out :** PTPD joined dozens of partnering agencies for this year's National Night Out, coming together to celebrate community, safety, and connection. Officers also participated in the annual 9/11 Stair Climb alongside fellow first responders from across Stark County.

**Four-Legged Friends & Sweet Treat Deliveries:** It wouldn't be a year at PTPD without our steady stream of four-legged visitors. So many lost dogs were reunited with their families in 2025, bringing joy to everyone involved. And of course, the treats. Our young bakers kept officers smiling with cookies, cupcakes, and homemade goodies throughout the year. Their kindness never goes unnoticed.

**Looking Forward:** 2025 was full of connections, accomplishments, and community pride. Every event, every partnership, every handshake, and every shared moment strengthened the bond between our department and the residents we proudly serve. Thank you, Perry Township, for another year of trust, support, and togetherness. We look forward to continuing this strong partnership in 2026 and beyond.

# SCAM AWARENESS ALERT

From **Perry Township Police Department**

Scammers are actively targeting residents through phone calls, text messages, emails, and social media. These scams often appear urgent and may claim to be from trusted organizations, government agencies, financial institutions, or even *people you know*.

## Common Scam Tactics

- Demands for **immediate payment** with **gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency**
- Calls or messages claiming to be from **banks, utilities, law enforcement, or government agencies**
- Emails or texts asking you to **click links** or **verify personal information**
- Social media messages posing as **friends, family, or local businesses**

## Important Reminders



- Police will **never** request money or personal information
- **Do not** share passwords, PINs, or banking details
- If it's urgent or "**too good to be true**" — pause and verify



## What You Should Do:

- Take time **before** responding
- Contact the organization directly using a **trusted phone number**
- Report suspicious activity to the **Perry Township Police Department**



 **Emergency: 911** |  **Non-Emergency: 330-478-5121**

Staying alert helps protect not only you, but our entire community.

## Veterans Wish Tag Program Success

We are proud to announce the successful completion of this year's Veterans Wish Tag Program, an annual effort to bring support and holiday cheer to local veterans and their families. Each tag represents a veteran or dependent and includes a personalized request ranging from household essentials to thoughtful gifts.



This year, PTPD received a full set of tags from the Veterans Service Commission and worked hard to fulfill every wish. A photo of the completed gift collection reflects the heart of our department and the compassion of our community.

While the program is led by the Veterans Service Commission, its success belongs to our residents. Many stepped forward with donations, purchased extra items, and helped prepare gifts for delivery making the holidays brighter for those who served and their families.

PTPD extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. Your generosity honors the sacrifices of our veterans and shows what makes Perry Township special.

The Veterans Wish Tag Program is just one way we serve beyond policing, and we look forward to carrying this spirit of giving into the new year.



## FEEL THE WARMTH OF HOME

Avoid the cold spell. Stay warm and well in our cozy community – where we take care of all your winter worries, so you can spend your time living happily and healthy. Whether you choose Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care or a Temporary Stay, you'll experience an atmosphere filled with compassionate care, engaging activities and plenty of friends at Canton Regency.

*Take a tour to find out more, and discover everything our community has to offer.*



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# ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS



Zoning Inspector Jeff Whytsell • [jwhytsell@perrytwp.com](mailto:jwhytsell@perrytwp.com) • 330-833-2141

## Looking back at 2025 and also ahead

The leaf blowers and rakes have been put away for the season only to be replaced by snow blowers and shovels. Even though the large majority of outdoor property maintenance is on pause due to inclement weather there are still some things we need to keep in mind regarding storing personal property outdoors and vehicles parked on our property. First, throwing tarps over lawn equipment, tools, construction materials, etc., is not permitted under township zoning regulations. Please store those items inside your garage, in the basement or a storage shed to keep yards neat and free of debris.

All vehicles parked outside your home must have current tags and license plates. They must also have all tires inflated and must be functional. No project vehicles on jacks, missing parts, or missing current license and tags are permitted to be stored outside.

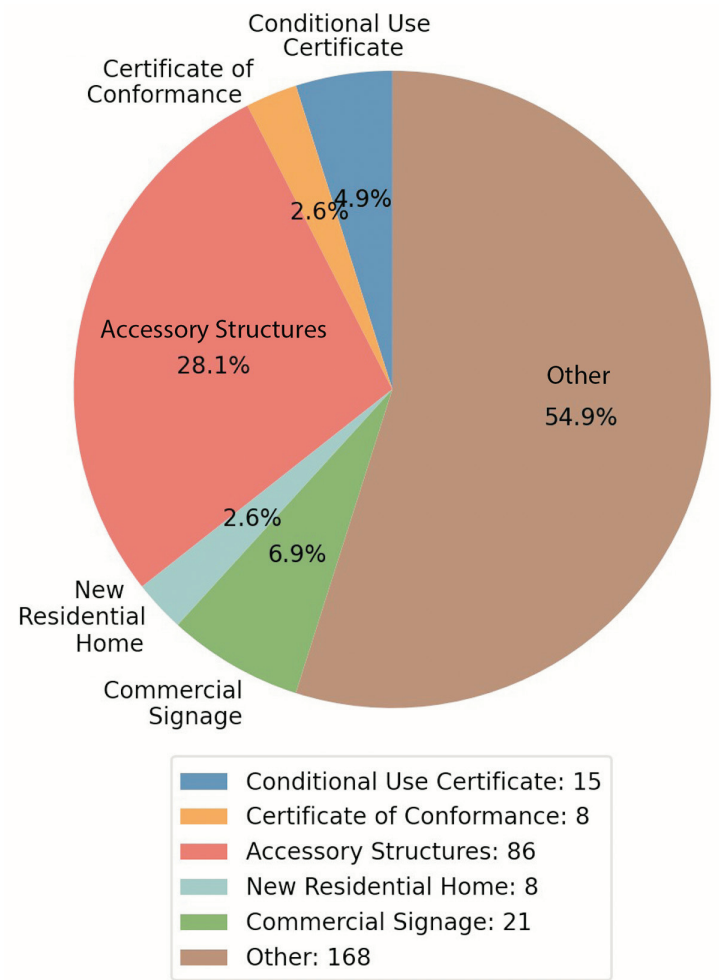
Anyone needing a zoning permit for a project on residential or commercial property may submit an application online through our township website. Simply type [www.perrytwp.com](http://www.perrytwp.com) in your search engine, select the Departments Tab, and select the Community Zoning Portal under Zoning to be directed to our application site. Applicants may submit application for any project and keep up to date with where the application is in the review process. Now you can also pay for your application directly through the online site. This added convenience will streamline the entire process!

Year to date totals for permits (as of December 16, 2025) are shown on the pie chart; 306 total permit applications processed with a total revenue of \$119,408.55. We had some significant commercial activity with Metallus, Superior Dairy, and Hall of Fame Investments LLC this year and are encouraged by our commercial partners who are investing in our township.

The Board of Zoning Appeals reviewed 22 variance cases this year for things like accessory structures, size and setback variances, and Home Occupations. Our Zoning Board reviewed two zoning map changes for commercial property owners as well as extensive review on proposed changes to our current zoning resolution, which has not been updated since 2015. The residents and business owners who are a part of these two boards work hard to both enforce regulations and help our residents and business owners move forward in the growth of Perry.

We had a very busy summer and fall season enforcing residential and commercial property maintenance regulations. This includes items such as, mowing and weeds, trash, abandoned and disabled vehicles and excessive clutter. Several properties required repeat inspections and enforcement; of the 578 total cases 100 resulted in financial citations. Let's all do our part to keep our properties clean and safe to promote the health and welfare of our neighbors and our community.

## 2025 Permit Distribution (306 total)



## Winter Tips for a Cleaner Community

Winter is here! While we're focused on snow and cold, it's also a great time to protect stormwater quality in Perry Township. Stormwater flows directly into our creeks, streams, and rivers without treatment, so every small action matters. Remember Stormwater is not treated before it enters local waterways. Your actions make a big difference!



### Check for Vehicle Leaks

When winterizing your car, inspect for oil or fluid leaks. Even small drips can pollute thousands of gallons of water. Dispose of oil and antifreeze properly - never pour them on the ground or into storm drains.



### Plan for Native Plants

Winter is the perfect time to plan your spring landscaping. Native plants thrive in Northeast Ohio, need less water and chemicals, and help filter rainwater before it reaches streams. They also attract beneficial insects and reduce lawn maintenance.



### Pick Up Pet Waste

Even in winter, pet waste can spread harmful bacteria. Frozen or not, it still poses health risks, especially to children and pets.

Questions? Contact Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904



## Be a Good Neighbor

Consider helping elderly or disabled neighbors by clearing snow from sidewalks or driveways. A small act of kindness can make a big difference during the winter months.



## Commercial Property Maintenance in Cold Weather

Winter weather can create extra challenges for businesses and commercial property owners. Proper maintenance isn't just good customer service, but it also supports accessibility, safety, and compliance with zoning and property standards. Here are a few key reminders for the winter season.

### Lighting and Visibility

Shorter daylight hours mean exterior lighting plays an important role in safety and security. Businesses are encouraged to:

- Ensure parking lots, entrances, and walkways are well-lit.
- Replace burned-out bulbs promptly.
- Keep light fixtures clear of snow and ice.

*Good lighting helps customers and employees navigate safely after dark and improves visibility for first responders.*

### Signage Safety

Snow, wind, and freezing temperatures can place added stress on business signs and posts. Please:

- Check that signs are securely fastened and in good condition.
- Remove damaged or leaning signs that may create a hazard.
- Avoid placing temporary signs in snow piles or along the public right-of-way.

*Safe signage helps maintain visibility and prevents accidents during winter storms.*

### Snow Pile Placement

Snow should be stored in locations that do not block sightlines, parking access, or pedestrian walkways. When clearing snow:

- Keep piles away from drive entrances, hydrants, and intersections.
- Do not push snow into the roadway or neighboring properties.
- Maintain access to loading areas and dumpster enclosures where possible.

*Proper placement improves traffic flow and visibility for drivers and pedestrians.*

### Walkway and Customer Access

Businesses are encouraged to maintain clear, passable sidewalks (or if there's no actual sidewalk, keep a lane clear for pedestrians) and entrances throughout the winter. That includes:

- Removing snow and ice in a timely manner.
- Using salt or ice-melt in high-traffic areas.
- Keeping ramps and ADA access routes open and safe.
- Clear walkways support accessibility and create a welcoming, customer-friendly environment.

## Perry Township Expands Transparency, Website and Access to Services

Perry Township is continuing its commitment to open government and community engagement by making it easier than ever for residents to stay informed and access township services.

Over the past several months, the Township has introduced **new ways for residents to follow local decisions and updates**. Regular Trustee meetings are now livestreamed, giving residents the ability to watch discussions and decisions in real time from home or on the go. Following each meeting, the Township also issues press releases summarizing key actions and decisions. These updates, along with other important announcements, are shared on the **Perry Township Facebook page**, helping residents stay connected and informed.

Looking ahead, Perry Township is launching a **major website update** project to make information and services easier to find. The new design will include clearer navigation, mobile-friendly access, and updated features for online requests and payments. As part of this effort, the Township will soon begin **accepting credit card payments**, offering residents more flexibility when paying for permits, services, and other fees.

Our goal is to make Perry Township more accessible and transparent than ever. We want residents to be able to find what they need quickly, stay informed about decisions, and feel connected to their local government.

As the new website takes shape, the Township is also asking for help from the community. Residents are invited to share high-resolution photos of their favorite parts of Perry Township—whether it's a park, event, scenic view, or local landmark—to be featured on the new site. Photos can be emailed to [office@perrytwp.com](mailto:office@perrytwp.com).

Together, these efforts reflect Perry Township's ongoing dedication to **transparency, accessibility, and community pride**.

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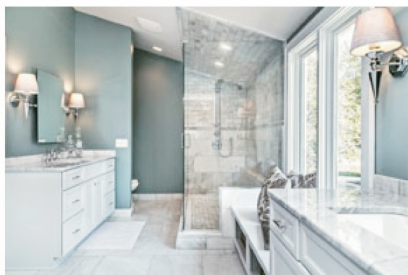
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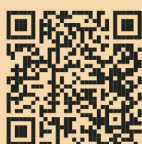
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# Congratulations 2025 Light Up Perry Winners!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Light Up Perry Holiday Decorating Contest such a fun and festive community tradition. Dozens of homes brightened our neighborhoods with creativity, color, and holiday spirit and nearly 500 residents cast votes for the Peoples' Choice Award.



**938 Netherwood**

### Peoples' Choice Winner: 938 Netherwood

This beautifully decorated home glowed with lighted sculptures, colorful inflatables, and festive accents lining the driveway. The joyful display stood out as a community favorite and truly captured the spirit of the season.



**710 Manor (Front)**

### Griswold / Over-the-Top Winner: 710 Manor

A show-stopping corner-lot display featuring decorations across both sides of the property, including a memorable Grinch getting ready to slide down the chimney. This home went all-in on holiday cheer and delivered a true "wow" factor.



**331 Anna**

### Themed Display Winner: 331 Anna

This charming Gingerbread-themed display combined warmth, whimsy, and creativity, bringing a sweet and cozy holiday scene to life.

All winners will receive a holiday gift basket as a thank-you for sharing their time, talent, and festive spirit with the community.

Thank You, Perry Township! We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who entered, voted, supported, and enjoyed the displays across the Township. Many beautifully decorated homes and businesses did not enter the contest this year, and we encourage more residents and business owners to join in next year. We would love to see even more neighborhoods shine and more community members be recognized!

Light Up Perry is about connection, fun, and community pride, and we look forward to growing this tradition together in the years ahead.

*Happy New Year and thank you for helping make Perry Township bright!*

## Mailbox Damage? Let's Work Together!



Winter weather can be tough on all of us and sometimes even on mailboxes! Occasionally, a snowplow may accidentally knock over a mailbox due to heavy snow or incidental contact with. We understand this can be frustrating, and we appreciate your patience as we work to keep the roads safe for everyone.

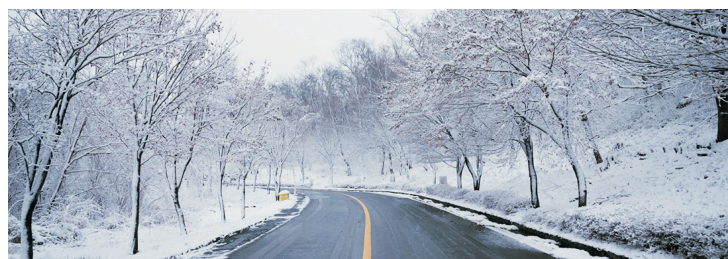
### Here's what you need to know:

- Mailboxes should be sturdy enough to handle the impact of thrown snow.
- If a mailbox is in poor condition or installed incorrectly, repairs may not be possible.
- If your mailbox was knocked down by snow and can be re-fastened, our Road Department will do its best to help after snow operations are complete.

### Need to report damage? We're here to make the process simple:

- Complete the Mailbox Complaint Form on the Perry Township website under the Road Department section (Mailbox Damage Complaint/Replacement Procedure).
- Mail the form to the Road Department within three (3) days of the incident.
- Prefer to talk to someone? Call us during business hours, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 330-832-7750.

*Thank you for working with us to keep our community safe and connected. Your cooperation helps us serve you better!*



## Plow Marker Flags: Help Keep Our Roads Safe This Winter

Snowy conditions can make it hard for plow drivers to see where the road ends and obstacles begin. You can help by installing plow marker flags along your property. These markers make it easier for drivers to avoid turf, curbs, and downspout drains while clearing snow.



### Where to Find Them:

Most local hardware stores carry plow marker flags, and they're easy to install. Look for bright, reflective options for maximum visibility.

### Why It Matters:

Clear markers help protect your property and make snow removal safer and more efficient for everyone in the community.

### Jason Varner

Owner/Principal Agent

office (330)837-2288

cell (330)904-8641

JasonV@VarnerInsGroup.com



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Board of Education	330-492-8136
Board of Elections	330-451-8683
Building Department	330-451-1770
Canton-Stark County Crime Lab	330-484-4801
Dog License	330-451-7354
Dog Warden	330-451-2343
Emergency Management Agency	330-451-3900
Fair Housing	330-451-7775
Health Department	330-493-9904
House Numbering	330-451-7843
Humane Society	330-453-5529
Regional Planning Commission	330-451-7389
Sanitary Engineer	330-451-2357
Soil and Water Conservation	330-489-4476
Stark Parks	330-477-3552
Stark-Tusc-Wayne Joint Waste Management District	330-874-2258
Subdivision Engineer	330-451-7403
Veterans Services	330-451-7457
Aultman Hospital	330-452-9911
Mercy Medical Center	330-489-1000
Massillon Cable TV	330-833-4134
Spectrum Cable	330-694-7259
Aqua Ohio	877-987-2782

Dominion East Ohio Gas	330-477-9411
AEP	800-362-2764
First Energy	800-633-4766
Kimble	800-201-0005
Republic Waste	800-247-3644
Waste Management/Canton	844-492-9417
Stark County Auditor Main Line Auditor	330-451-7357 330-451-7291
Appraisal Dept.	330-451-7085
Board of Revision	330-451-7998 or 330-451-7949
Commercial Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV)	330-451-7294
Destroyed Property	330-451-7640
Estate Tax	330-451-7184
Fiscal Dept.	330-451-7504
GIS	330-451-7193
Homestead Dept.	330-451-7323
Manufactured Homes	330-451-7640
Maps	330-451-7341
Settlements/Budgets	330-451-7325
Transfer Dept.	330-451-7322 or 330-451-7333
Vendor's License	330-451-7354
Weights and Measures	330-451-2377

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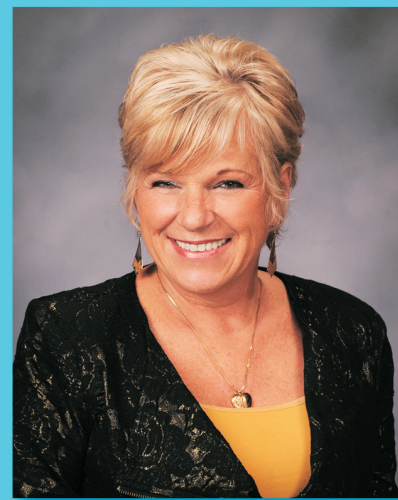
If you are a Perry resident, call Fire Administration at 330-833-3865 or you can get on our Township website ([www.perrytwp.com](http://www.perrytwp.com)) and click on the Fire Department link which is located under "Departments". Then click on the "Address Signs" button and complete the form.

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