Pg. 2 Parade & Fall Fest Recap

Pg. 3 Police Dept. Updates

Pg. 6 Fire Dept. Updates

Pg. 11 Zoning Dept. News

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PERRY Township News

Your Perry Township Board of Trustees



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Letter from the Director of Public Works, Jamason Rohaley

As a resident of Perry Township, I care a great deal about our community and the roads we all depend on. As Public Works Director, my commitment is to manage the budget we have as effectively as possible. The department recognizes the importance of making every tax dollar go far, especially since the expiration of the 2014 levy reduced our budget by $540,175.

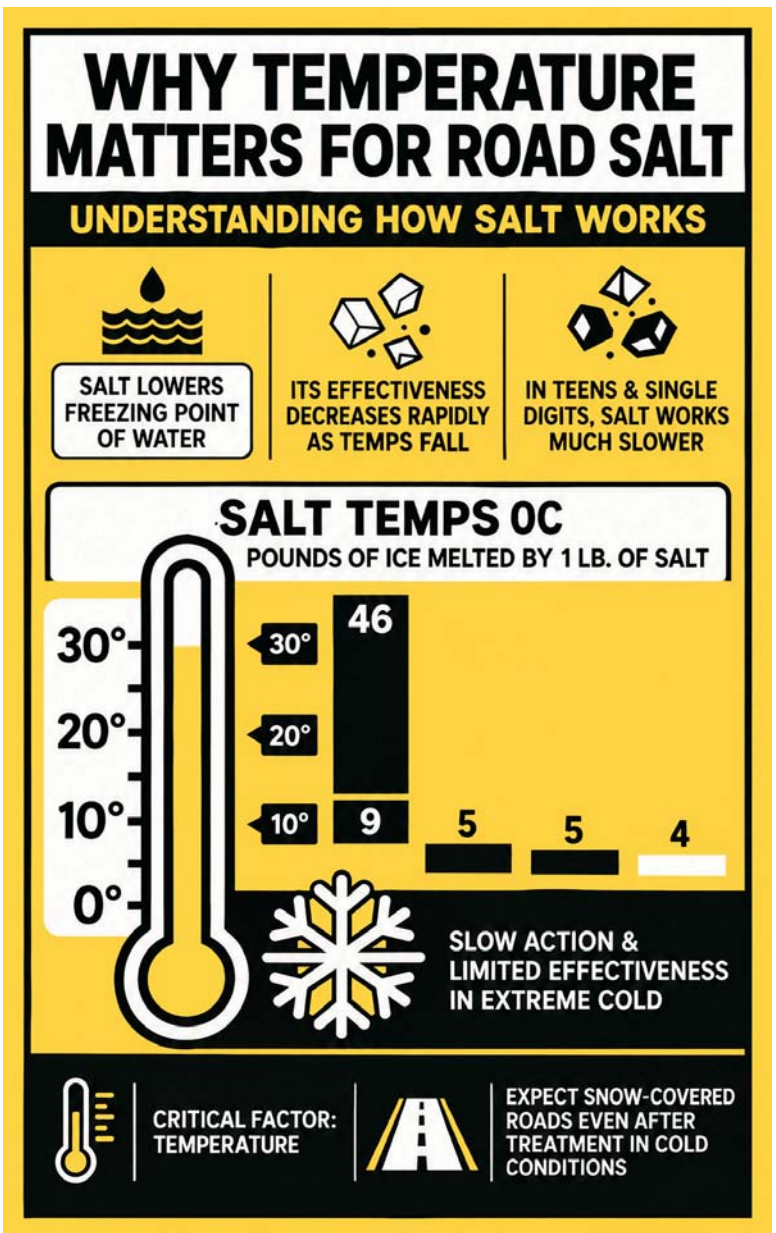
There is currently a renewal of a road levy, originally passed in 1986, on the ballot. This is a 2-mill levy based on 1986 property values. The renewal continues to generate $727,945 annually. This amount has remained flat since 1986. However, it will actually cost homeowners a few dollars less than the last time it was passed. The renewal will cost $18 per $100,000 of assessed home value. These funds go directly toward maintaining our current level of services, including minor road repairs, drainage maintenance, and snow and ice removal. This renewal levy does not cover the cost of new paving projects.

I understand that our budget is limited and that circumstances can change. That means we have to make thoughtful decisions about where our resources are needed most. To help stay within budget, we made the difficult decision to not immediately replace an employee who left over the summer, nor have we filled my former position since I was promoted. While this puts added responsibility on our current crew, it allows us to protect the township's financial position more effectively in case the 1986 levy expires without being renewed.



We are also working to improve our road repair options for potholes by learning and using new techniques. I ask for the community's patience as our crew learns these new methods to get the best results possible. The crew cares about doing a good job, and they are a very dedicated and hardworking group.

I'm proud to serve the community I live in. We face challenges and limited resources, but I believe in being good stewards of our budget, supporting the crew, and continuing to move our township forward - one road, one project, and one day at a time.



ROAD DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Bill Huff

Road Maintenance Specialist



Bill Huff has been a road maintenance specialist at the road department for nine years. He is a great team player and always lends a helping hand to his co-workers. He goes out on snow and ice calls, storm debris and damage calls, along with daily tasks repairing culverts, ditch work, mowing, sweeping, patching roadways, and repairing storm drains, etc. Bill is very dependable, has a great sense of humor, is always in a good mood, and gets along with everyone around him. Bill is a valuable asset for the Road Department.

Bill and his wife Teresa have been married for 40 years and have a daughter, Tacie. Bill has been a hot rod enthusiast for years and buys, builds, and sells old cars.

Thank you, Bill, for all you do!

Please see page 9 for more Road Dept. Updates



A Message from Your Township Administrator, Gerrie Cotter

Perry Township Parade and Fall Festival

The streets were lined with community members on Saturday, September 12, as we celebrated the 12th Annual Perry Township Parade and Fall Festival (formerly known as Oktoberfest). The parade was incredibly well-attended and featured several exciting new entries this year. A major highlight was the musical entertainment, with fantastic performances by the Perry High School Marching Band, the En-Rich-ment drumline, and the Central Catholic High School Band.

Following the parade, the festivities continued at our new venue, Meredith Park. The weather was forecast to be beautiful all day, and it certainly delivered for the parade and the first hour of the festival. Attendees enjoyed fantastic community booths, delicious offerings from our food vendors, and plenty of engaging kids' activities. Unfortunately, an unexpected and severe storm with lightning moved in, forcing us to end the festival early for the safety of our residents and vendors. Despite the abbreviated schedule, Meredith Park proved to be a wonderful location for the event, and we are already planning to host it there again next year.

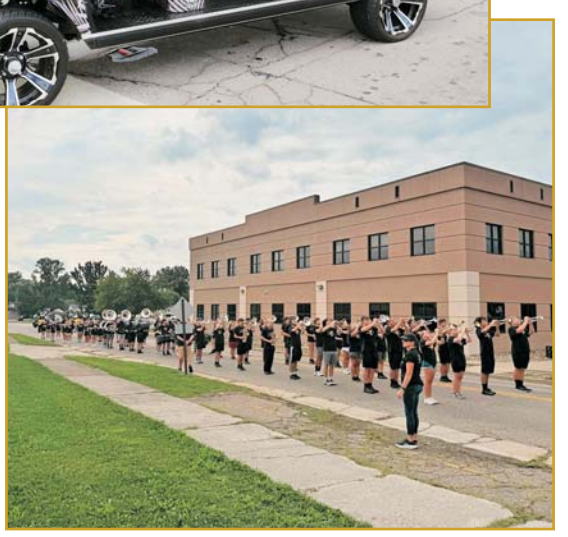
An event of this scale takes a tremendous amount of teamwork and community partnership. We extend our sincere gratitude to our event sponsors, the Perry Township Rotary and Aqua Ohio, for their generous support. Thank you to all the vendors and parade entrants who brought the festival to life. We also want to recognize the dedicated volunteers and township staff who worked hard to make this a successful event and handled the sudden weather pivot with professionalism and grace.

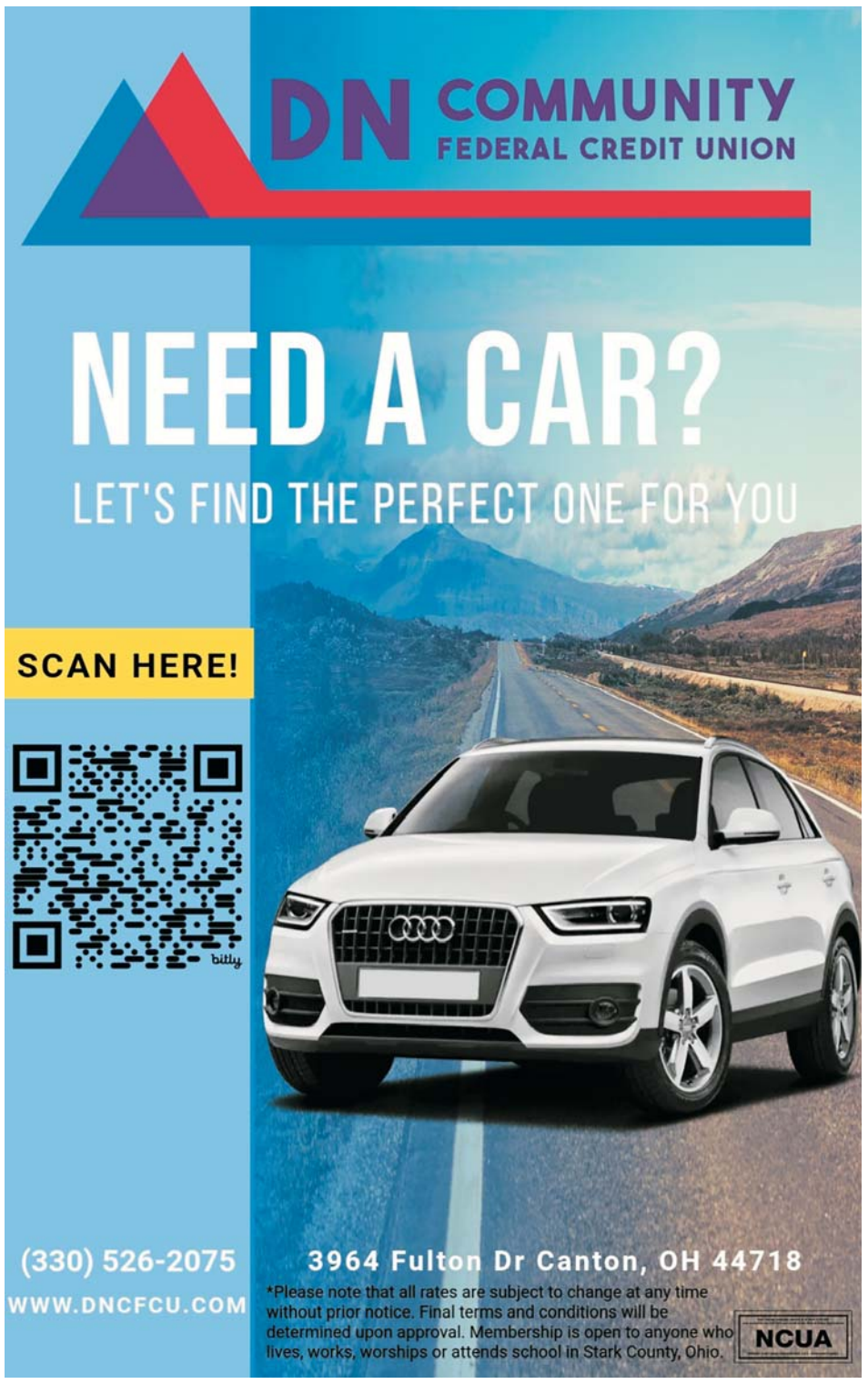
Finally, thank you to the families and community members who came out to watch the parade and attend the festival. Your continued support is what makes Perry Township such a great place to live. We look forward to seeing you at Meredith Park next fall. Please enjoy the photos of the parade and festival included below.













POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

A Message from Chief Bryan Taylor

btaylor@perrypolice.com • 330-478-5121



Building a Stronger Perry Township Together

As summer comes to an end and students return to the classroom, Perry Township once again becomes filled with school buses, student drivers, pedestrians and families adjusting to new routines. This is an exciting time of year, but it is also an important reminder that keeping our community safe is a responsibility we all share.

I encourage every driver to slow down, remain attentive and allow extra time when traveling through school zones. Please watch carefully for children near bus stops and crosswalks, and remember that a few extra moments of patience can make a tremendous difference.

Back-to-school season is also an opportunity to recognize the important relationship between our police department, local schools and families. Our officers are committed to being visible, approachable and actively involved with the young people of Perry Township. Whether we are assisting at a school, attending a community event or simply having a conversation with a student, these interactions help build trust and create positive connections that can last for years.

Public safety is strongest when law enforcement and the community work together. We encourage residents to stay informed, report suspicious activity and reach out when assistance is needed. Just as importantly, we invite you to continue meeting our officers, attending community events and sharing your ideas and concerns with us.

On behalf of the entire Perry Township Police Department, I wish our students, teachers, school staff and families a safe and successful school year. Thank you for your continued trust, partnership and support. Together, we will continue making Perry Township a safe and welcoming place to live, learn, work and raise a family.



Help Us Bring Holiday Joy to Our Veterans!

This holiday season, the Perry Township Police Department is proud to once again support the Stark County Veterans Service Commission's Winter Wonderland program, a community tradition dedicated to bringing Christmas cheer to Stark County veterans and their dependents.

Since 2017, Winter Wonderland has connected local veterans and their families with individuals, businesses, and organizations who want to give back to those who have served our country. Participating veterans submit a wish list of three desired items. Those wishes are then placed on anonymous Wish Tags, protecting the privacy and dignity of each recipient.

Community members can select a tag, purchase the requested gifts, and help make the holiday season a little brighter for a local veteran or their family. The program culminates with the Winter Wonderland Celebration, where participating families receive their gifts and enjoy a holiday meal, fellowship, entertainment, and a visit from Santa for the children.

Perry Township, We Need Your Help!

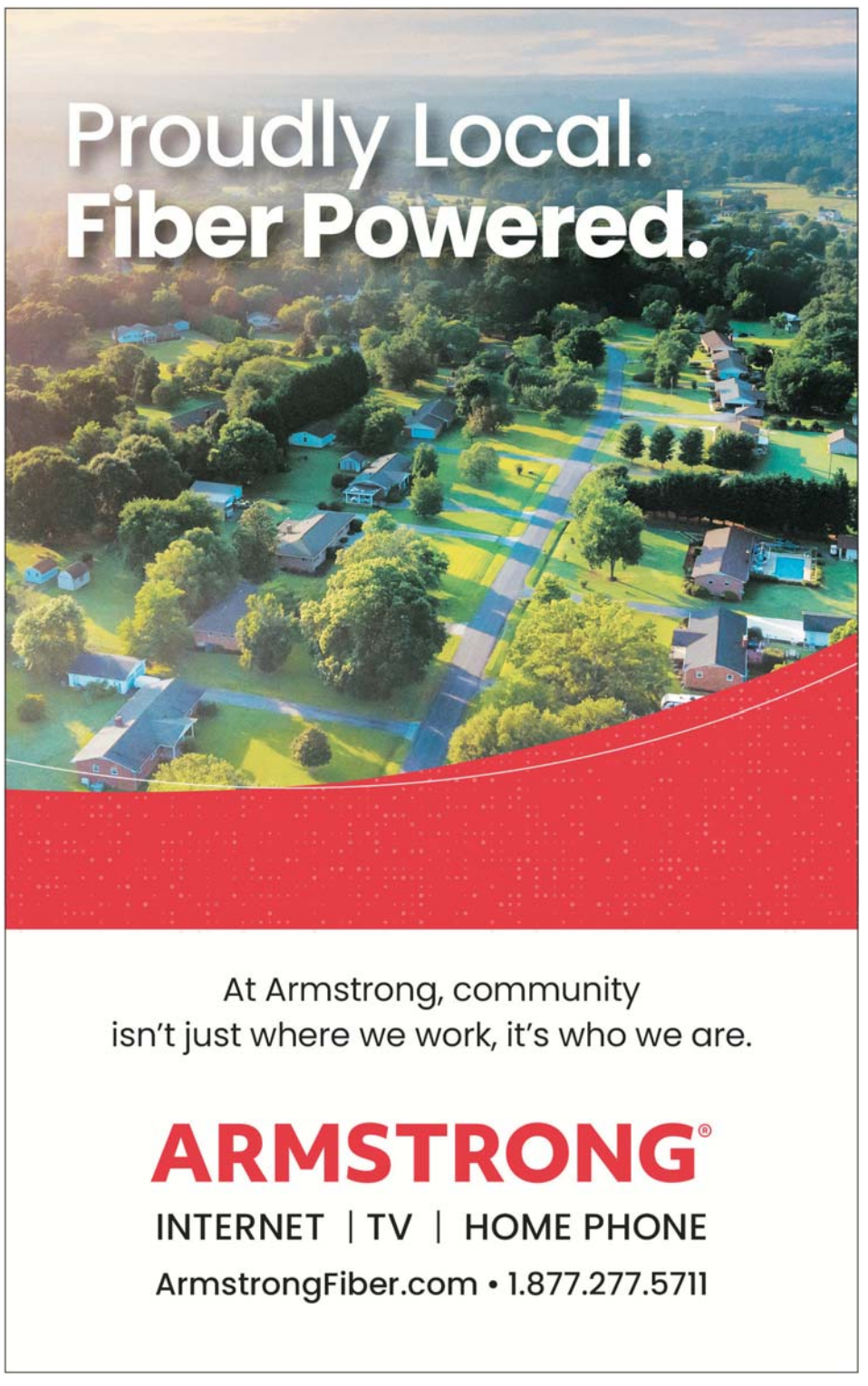
The Perry Township Police Department will have Winter Wonderland Wish Tags available for pickup in the police department lobby. We invite our residents, businesses, community groups, and organizations to stop in, choose a tag, and help fulfill a veteran's Christmas wish.

Our veterans have given so much in service to our country. This is one small way our Perry Township community can come together to remind them that their service is valued, their sacrifices are appreciated, and they are not forgotten.

Beginning in October of 2026, stop by the Perry Township Police Department lobby this holiday season and pick up a Wish Tag. Together, we can make Christmas a little brighter for those who served.

Please Note: Program details, dates, and availability are subject to change.

For the most current information and an updated Winter Wonderland flyer, please visit the Stark County Veterans Service Commission website as the holiday season approaches by scanning the QR code >>



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Cookout with Cops Brings Perry Township Together

The Perry Township Police Department's 2026 Cookout with Cops was an afternoon filled with food, family, laughter and meaningful community connections. Residents had the opportunity to meet local police officers, firefighters and township employees in a relaxed and welcoming environment while enjoying activities for all ages.

Guests were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, refreshing treats and plenty of family fun. The event featured All4Fun inflatables, the Little Roaming Railroad with Conductor Bob, police, road, and fire vehicles, and other activities that gave children a chance to interact with local first responders in a positive way.

Cookout with Cops is about much more than sharing a meal. It provides an opportunity for officers and residents to get to know one another beyond calls for service or emergency situations. These everyday conversations help build familiarity, strengthen trust and remind everyone that community policing begins with genuine relationships.

An event of this size would not be possible without the many people and organizations willing to lend a hand. The Perry Township Police Department extends its sincere appreciation to Perry Township Administration, the Zoning, Fire and Road departments, and the Massillon Law Department for volunteering and assisting wherever needed.

Special thanks also go to the event's generous sponsors, donors and community partners: Canal Fulton Provisions, Falcone's Tavern, Shearer's, McKinley Eagles, CSE Federal Credit Union, Diehl Automotive, Beaver Excavating, The Frosty Gator, Little Roaming Railroad and Conductor Bob, and All for Fun Inflatables.

The department is also grateful to the Perry High School students and Perry Spirited Seniors who volunteered their time and worked to help the event run smoothly. From preparing and serving food to welcoming families and assisting throughout the day, their enthusiasm and willingness to serve represented the very best of Perry Township.

Most importantly, thank you to every resident who attended, brought their family, shared a laugh, and spent the afternoon with us. The Perry Township Police Department may host Cookout with Cops, but it is the people of this community who make it so special.

We are proud to serve Perry Township and look forward to creating many more opportunities to bring our community together.





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PRESEASON

Sat, Aug 15	@ Chicago	1:00 PM
Sat, Aug 22	vs Buffalo	1:00 PM
Thu, Aug 27	vs New England	8:00 PM

REGULAR SEASON

Sun, Sep 13	@ Jacksonville	1:00 PM
Sun, Sep 20	@ Tampa Bay	1:00 PM
Sun, Sep 27	vs Carolina	1:00 PM
Thu, Oct 1	vs Pittsburgh	8:15 PM
Sun, Oct 11	@ New York AFC	1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 18	vs Baltimore	1:00 PM
Sun, Oct 25	@ Tennessee	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 1	@ Pittsburgh	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 8	@ New Orleans	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 15	vs Houston	1:00 PM
Sun, Nov 29	vs Las Vegas	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 6	vs Cincinnati	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 13	vs Atlanta	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 20	@ New York NFC	1:00 PM
Sun, Dec 27	@ Baltimore	1:00 PM
Sun, Jan 3	vs Indianapolis	1:00 PM
TBD	@ Cincinnati	TBD

Dates and times subject to change. All times are EST.
TBD dates will be determined and announced no later than four weeks prior to game day.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE









Little Learners, Big Safety Lessons!

This August, the Perry Township Police Department welcomed students entering kindergarten and first grade for a fun-filled week at Safety Town!

With help from Officer Blanc and Officer Vanest, our youngest residents learned important lessons about fire safety, bicycles, pedestrians, school buses, strangers, water safety and other everyday situations. Along the way, they made new friends and learned that police officers and first responders are always there to help.

Thank you to Perry Local School District, our presenters, volunteers, and families for making Safety Town possible. Most importantly, congratulations to our Safety Town graduates! We are so proud of you and hope you have a safe and wonderful school year!



Hello community members,

It is my honor to be your Ohio State Representative.

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

Matt Kishman



FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Fire Chief Larry Sedlock

lsedlock@perrytwp.com • 330-833-3865

After what felt like an extremely hot and muggy summer, the air is finally turning crisp, the leaves are beginning to show off their beautiful colors, pool parties are winding down, and gardening tools are being packed away for another year. That can only mean a couple of things: fall is upon us, and Mr. Winter is not far behind!

Your fire department had a busy summer participating in numerous community events throughout the Township. Here are just a few examples of how we stayed active and involved in our community:

- Collaborated with the Perry Police Department on the P.R.I.D.E. Program, Safety Town, and Cookout with the Cops
- Career Day at Perry High School
- Community Safety Day
- Memorial Day events at Perry High School
- The Hero Run
- The Exceptional Olympics
- Perry Christian School Program

All of these events took place while we continued responding to emergency calls and conducting ongoing training to ensure that we remain prepared to serve you at the highest level possible.

Looking Ahead to Fall

Our fall calendar is already filling up quickly. With the start of the new school year, we will be providing fire safety education and fire extinguisher training not only in our schools, but also at local businesses and nursing homes. Our goal is simple: to make sure everyone understands their role and knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Behind the scenes, we have also been working hard to recruit and hire high-quality full-time employees. These additions to our team will help us provide more consistent service, enhance our training programs, and provide greater stability throughout the department.

This is just one of the many ways we are working to strengthen and modernize our services during what continues to be a challenging time for fire departments everywhere.

Thank You for Your Support

Of course, none of this would be possible without the continued support of the residents and businesses of our community - and for that, we are sincerely grateful.

Your generosity allows us to maintain the personnel, lifesaving equipment, staff vehicles, and fire apparatus necessary to serve you when you need us most.

You have been there for us, and that allows us to be there for you.

From all of us at your fire department, thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe, enjoy the beautiful fall season, and remember - winter is coming!

FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Rick King *Firefighter Paramedic*



For 34 years, Rick King has proudly served the Perry Township Fire Department, dedicating more than three decades to protecting our community.

A career in the fire service is about much more than responding to emergencies. It is about commitment, teamwork, sacrifice, and being willing to answer the call whenever someone needs help. Throughout his 34 years with the Perry Township Fire Department, Rick has demonstrated those qualities time and time again.

Over the years, Rick has responded to countless emergencies, participated in training, worked alongside fellow firefighters, and contributed to the day-to-day operations that keep our department ready to serve. Like so many career and volunteer firefighters, his service has required time away from family, missed holidays and special occasions, long hours, and a willingness to put the needs of others before his own.

Behind every dedicated firefighter is a support system that makes this service possible. Rick's girlfriend, Shel, along with his children, Kaylee, Nate, and Makenzie, shared in the sacrifices, challenges, and rewards that come with his commitment to the fire service. Their understanding, encouragement, and support have been an important part of Rick's 34-year journey.

Thirty-four years represents an incredible milestone. It includes thousands of hours of service and countless experiences shared with fellow firefighters. It also represents generations of Perry Township residents who have benefited from Rick's dedication to the fire service.

Perhaps one of the greatest measures of a firefighter's career is not found in statistics, but in the relationships built along the way - the friendships made around the firehouse, the firefighters trained and mentored, the lives touched, and the memories created over the years.

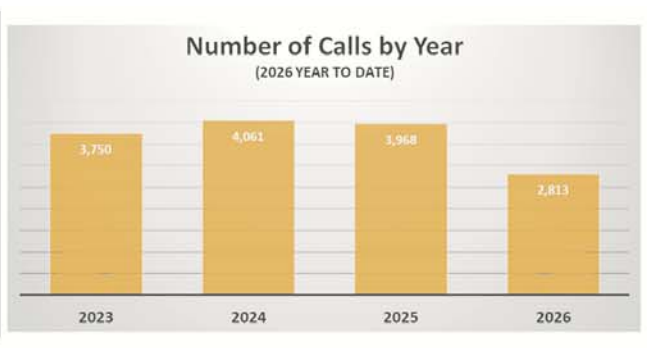
The Perry Township Fire Department is fortunate to have had Rick King as a member of our fire service family for the past 34 years. His dedication and commitment are a reflection of the pride he takes in serving our community, and the support of Shel, Kaylee, Nate, and Makenzie has helped make that service possible.

Rick, thank you for 34 years of dedicated service. Your commitment, sacrifice, and friendship are sincerely appreciated.

Perry Township Fire Department Call Volume







As reflected in the graphs above, our Fire Department continues to maintain a high level of activity. The data shown represents all incidents to which our personnel have responded year to date, providing an overview of the services we deliver throughout the community.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Community Events

We are very active throughout our community, providing station tours and participating in a variety of events throughout the Township. Our firefighters enjoy the opportunity to connect with our residents and share the important work we do.

Throughout the year, we have participated in events such as the Special Olympics, Perry High School and Edison Junior High School career days, the Hero Run, the Perry Helping Perry bicycle giveaway, and, of course, our many informative fire and safety presentations.

These events provide us with a great opportunity to interact with members of our community, educate others about fire and life safety, and show that being your fire department means much more than responding to emergencies.

Here are a couple of photos highlighting some of the events and activities our department has been involved in throughout the community.





Training Alongside the Perry Bus Drivers







Perry Preschool Safety Day



Hero Run



Perry Helping Perry Bike Giveaway

Free Reflective Address Signs for Perry Township Residents



Address signs are very important to help us find your residence or business in the event of an emergency. **Order your FREE address sign** today.

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Help us find you in an emergency by ordering your FREE address sign today!

If you are a Perry resident, you can request your free sign by calling Fire Administration at 330-833-3865 or you can scan the QR code to order online.

Once your request is received, we will manufacture, deliver, and install your address sign at no cost to you.



MaxiForce Air Lifting Bag System: Powerful Tools for Technical Rescue

When a rescue situation involves a heavy vehicle, piece of machinery, or other large object that must be lifted or shifted, firefighters need equipment that is powerful, dependable, and capable of working in tight spaces. One of the tools that gives our firefighters that capability is the MaxiForce Air Lifting Bag System.

The MaxiForce system uses compressed air to lift, move, or shift extremely heavy loads. Unlike traditional mechanical or hydraulic lifting equipment, air bags are remarkably thin when deflated, allowing firefighters to position them in areas where other lifting equipment may not fit. Once positioned, the bag is inflated using the system's control equipment, providing a controlled lift.



How Does It Work?
The concept behind an air lifting bag is relatively simple: put the bag underneath the load, introduce compressed air, and let the bag do the lifting.

Of course, the actual operation requires considerably more training and attention to safety. Firefighters must evaluate the load, determine the appropriate bag and placement, establish stabilization, and operate the control equipment while continuously monitoring the lift.

MaxiForce bags are constructed using multiple layers of Neoprene-covered Aramid fiber reinforcement. The bags also feature an interlocking surface that allows two bags to be stacked when appropriate for the rescue operation. Depending on the particular bag size, the system provides a wide range of lifting capacities. The current MaxiForce line includes 14 sizes and operates at up to 180 psi, with the largest bag rated for lifting capacities exceeding 106 tons.

A Valuable Rescue Tool
Air lifting bags can be useful in a variety of situations. They may be used during vehicle extrication, industrial accidents, machinery incidents, structural collapse operations, and other technical rescue situations where a heavy object needs to be raised or shifted.

One of the biggest advantages of the system is its ability to provide significant lifting force while occupying very little space. This can be especially important when firefighters are working around a trapped patient, and there is limited room to position traditional lifting equipment.

The bags also operate quietly, which can be an advantage during rescue operations where communication between firefighters and victims is important.

Another Tool in Our Rescue Toolbox
The MaxiForce Air Lifting Bag System is an excellent example of how modern rescue equipment can give firefighters additional options when faced with challenging incidents. Its combination of high lifting capacity, compact design, and versatility makes it a valuable tool for technical rescue operations.

Our firefighters continually train with the equipment available to them so that, when the unexpected happens, they are prepared to put those tools to work. Whether it is a vehicle accident, an industrial emergency, or another complex rescue situation, having the right equipment, the right training, and the right plan can make all the difference.

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ROAD & PARKS DEPT. UPDATE

TOGETHER Perry Township WE TAKE PRIDE

FALL TREE & LIMB CHECK



PERRY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS:

INSPECT YOUR PROPERTY FOR DEAD & WEAK LIMBS.
PREVENT HAZARDS FROM WIND, SNOW & ICE.
KEEP TOWNSHIP ROADWAYS SAFE.

Property owners are responsible for tree care and safety near roads.
Remaining debris cleanup is property owner's responsibility.

PERRY TOWNSHIP ROAD DEPARTMENT

WHY DOESN'T THE ROAD DEPARTMENT GO OFF-ROAD?

Township resources, equipment, and taxpayer funds are designated for the maintenance and repair of public infrastructure. Road Department personnel generally do not perform work on private property to prevent liability concerns, property damage risks, and other legal issues.

WHAT WE DO:

- Maintain public infrastructure
- Maintain Township roads
- Clean and maintain roadside ditches
- Repair drainage infrastructure within the road right-of-way
- Mow Township right-of-ways
- Remove roadway hazards affecting public travel

WHAT WE DO *NOT* DO:

- Perform work on private property
- Remove trees on private property
- Clear drainage issues located entirely on private property
- Perform excavation or improvements for individual property owners



TEMPORARY ACCESS EXCEPTIONS:
In some situations, Township personnel may need temporary access to a property to address public infrastructure located within a drainage easement or road right-of-way. When possible, property owners are notified in advance.



KEEP DRAINAGE DITCHES CLEAR!



- DO NOT rake or blow leaves into roadside ditches.
- Leaves and yard debris CLOG CULVERTS & catch basins.
- This contributes to standing water and localized flooding.
- Property owners are responsible for ditch care.
- Dispose of leaves through an appropriate YARD-WASTE program.

A SHARED EFFORT FOR PROTECTED TOWNSHIP ROADS.

Perry Township Road Dept. Information



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ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Zoning Inspector Jeff Whytsell • jwhytsell@perrytwp.com • 330-833-2141

Fall Zoning Reminders for Perry Township Residents

Fall is a busy season for property improvements in Perry Township and across Stark County. As residents prepare yards for winter, add storage space, finish outdoor projects, or make repairs before colder weather arrives, it is important to remember that Perry Township zoning requirements still apply – even for projects that may seem simple, seasonal, or temporary.

In Perry Township, a zoning permit is required for constructing new structures, enlarging or renovating existing structures, and adding accessory structures on residential or commercial property. Common fall projects that should be checked before work begins include sheds, detached garages, decks, porches, pools, signs, or fences. Fence permits are issued by the Zoning Department, and height and yard placement requirements must be met.

Fall cleanup can also create zoning, property maintenance, and drainage concerns. Leaves, brush, and yard debris should not be pushed into roadways, drainage ditches, culverts, stormwater areas, or neighboring properties. Keeping ditches and swales clear helps reduce localized flooding during heavy autumn rains and winter thaw cycles. Residents should also trim vegetation near driveways, sidewalks, intersections, and signs so visibility remains safe as daylight hours get shorter.

Before beginning a project in Perry Township, check with the Zoning Department if you plan to:

- Install or replace a shed, detached garage, deck, porch, fence, pool, sign, or other accessory structure
- Place a temporary structure on the property
- Start a home occupation use from your property
- Add or change outdoor storage, parking, or commercial use areas
- Make improvements near a property line, road right-of-way, easement, ditch, culvert, or drainage area

A quick call before beginning work can save time, money, and frustration later. Perry Township residents may contact the Zoning Department at (330) 833-2141 or visit the Township Hall at 3111 Hilton Street NW, Massillon, Ohio, during regular weekday office hours to ask questions or obtain permit information.

Residents should be prepared to provide basic project details, including a site plan, property dimensions, setbacks, and the proposed location of the improvement.

When in doubt, ask first – good planning in the Fall helps keep Perry Township properties compliant, safe, and ready for the season ahead.

A Warm Perry Township Welcome!

We are excited to welcome two delightful new businesses to Perry Township:



Molly B's Candle Company, located at 4964 Tuscarawas St. W, is a cozy stop for home decor, aromatherapy items, health & beauty products, and more. Visit Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Green Gallery – Curated Botanicals, located at 4030A Lincoln Way E, offers curated botanicals, homegrown houseplants, charming home decor, and thoughtful gifts. Stop by Thursday through Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. to explore something new and beautiful.

Please join us in giving both businesses a cheerful Perry Township welcome. We hope you'll stop in, say hello, and enjoy supporting these wonderful local shops!



Community Events for the Whole Family: Join the Fun at Central Catholic



Central Catholic graduate, Luke Paul, takes a photo with a guest at the 2025 Trunk or Treat Event.

Central Catholic High School students spend thousands of hours each year serving Perry Township and Stark County. Those community connections aren't just off campus. Throughout the year, they open their doors to local families for events that bring students and neighbors together.

One of those traditions is the annual **Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25**, from 1:00–2:30 p.m. Led by Crusaders for the Community, a student-run service organization, Central students decorate their cars, create photo opportunities, pass out treats and host carnival-style games. Students take an active role in offering a fun, safe afternoon for families.

Sunday, November 8, is Central Catholic's Fall Open House from noon–2:00 p.m.. Families can tour the campus and experience the character and history of a building that first opened its doors in 1905. Visitors can talk with students, teachers and coaches to learn more about the school and the opportunities available to students today, while seeing how Central Catholic continues to evolve to meet student needs, just as it has for more than a century.

December brings holiday festivities to campus. The Central Catholic Theatre Department will present **It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, December 4–6** in the school's Black Box Theatre. Performances are 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Also on **Sunday, December 6, is the Crusader Christmas Celebration**, from 1:00–2:30 p.m.; children can make crafts, decorate cookies, play games, visit with Santa and enjoy a live Nativity.

Scan the Code for Event Details. !

Whether attending a performance, bringing the kids for an afternoon of fun or stopping by to see what's happening, Central Catholic welcomes its neighbors to campus.

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