

Police  
Dept.  
Updates

Fire  
Dept.  
Updates

Road &  
Parks  
Dept.  
News

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FALL 2023



# PERRY Township News

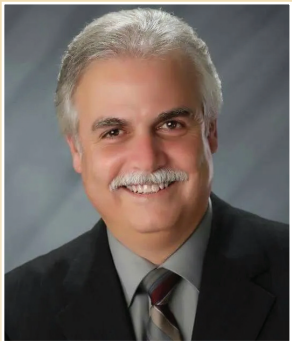
## Your Perry Township Board of Trustees



**Lisa Nelligan**  
Board President  
lnelligan@perrytwp.com



**Matt Miller**  
Vice President  
mmiller@perrytwp.com



**Ralph DeChiara Jr.**  
Trustee  
rdechiara@perrytwp.com



**Craig Chessler**  
Fiscal Officer  
cchessler@perrytwp.com

## Serving you... The Thin Blue Line

There is far more to the service of your Police Department than you may expect. These services are made possible through local levy funding. The Perry Township Board of Trustees has placed Ballot Issue 25 before the voters at the General Election on Tuesday, November 7th 2023. For detailed information about what the local tax dollars provide, please visit Perry Cops Levy Committee's Facebook page, or contact Chief Bryan Taylor.

Meanwhile, we want to share with you the wide variety of services the members of our Perry Police Department are currently providing in order to keep you and your loved ones safe!

**Serving our Senior Citizens:** SENIORS STAYING CONNECTED is two programs serving our senior residents. The COP CARE CALL program includes phone calls to enrolled senior citizens from the Police Department on designated days and times, (weekdays between 8am and 4pm). A member of our department will call the individual to check on their well-being. Three attempts will be made. If no contact is made, Officers will then be sent to their home for a welfare check. The SENIOR WATCH program is for senior citizens that may need our help more than others. These individuals may not have nearby family or friends to check on them or assist them if needed. This program assigns an officer to visit the individual once a week (or more if needed) to check on their welfare.

**Education:** Fraud Prevention Seminars to help seniors and others recognize common scams and attempts to steal identity.

**Serving our Youth:** DARE, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, is a program offered in Perry Local Schools and provides children with an opportunity to learn and practice good decision-



making skills to lead safe and healthy lives. Perry P.R.I.D.E. Camp is a 2-week program incorporating a fun learning environment while building leadership, social skills, and learning how to be a part of the community and larger world.

**Serving our Businesses:** Chief Taylor is a member of the Perry Township Business Collaborative. They are committed to supporting local businesses, Churches, schools, and non-profit agencies. "Growing Forward" creates a space to share events, available services and products, discounts, activities and more. We are bringing awareness to all that is around us in Perry Township. Shop local, live local, support local. The Police Chief can be found visiting local businesses and speaking with owners in an effort to build relationships.

**Serving our Veterans:** Beginning October 16, 2023, join us in partnering with The Veterans Service Commission

of Stark County for our Winter Wonderland Christmas program for Veterans. Each year Perry Township partners with the community and township employees to provide Stark County Veterans and their dependents with a truly magical holiday! Last year, with the help of our community partners, the Veteran's Service Commission was able to provide holiday joy to 364 Stark County Veterans and their dependents. This would not be possible without your support. We encourage the community to get involved by taking a Veteran wish tag! Program details are on the attached flyer. Our Veterans deserve to be remembered and recognized, especially during the holiday season. For additional information, please contact Detective Paciorek.

*Paid for by the Perry Cops Levy Committee.*

### Sheriff Maier's Endorsement message

The critical nature of this levy cannot be overstated as it prioritizes securing your neighborhoods, schools, and public places. By supporting this levy, we reinforce our shared commitment to fostering communities where people are proud to live, work, and raise their families. As your Sheriff, please join me in supporting Chief Taylor, along with the men and women of the Perry Township Police Department in their quest to keep Perry Township and surrounding Stark County safe.





## An Update from Board Vice President, Matt Miller

It is an honor to address all of you and to update you on a busy 2023 thus far. Progress has been made in several key areas and a few long-term projects have been

initiated. All of this is in the spirit of moving Perry forward. It is no secret that we have lost ground to surrounding communities and efforts to close that gap are well overdue. We are a community that has, does, and will continue to take pride in marching to the beat of our own drum. Here are a few areas in the township that are on the road to improvement and on course to an exciting future.



### PERRY TOWNSHIP PARKS

**Meredith Park Project:** The first phase of this project, establishing properly graded athletic fields, is complete. Perry Township's own Beaver Excavating has given a total facelift to the fields, new seed & straw is in place, and we are anticipating a healthy fall growing season to get these fields up and running again next Spring. The second phase of the project is the creation of a new walking track that encompasses the park.

**New Bathrooms:** By the time this article is published, there should be some visible progress on the bathroom upgrades at Summerdale & Regis Perry Memorial Park. Both locations will be getting new

facilities, located in roughly the same spot as the existing structures.

**Important Note:** Both projects listed above are funded through grants, donations, or COVID relief funds. Perry Township does not collect any tax dollars for the maintenance or improvement of our Parks system. With this in mind, I am giving more and more consideration to organizing community volunteers, local businesses, and organizations to adopt/partner/sponsor aspects of our park system to achieve an improved Parks & Rec offering in Perry Township without increasing the tax burden to our residents.

### MOVING PERRY FORWARD

As with many things in life, I think I know and understand, only to find out I have merely scratched the surface. This is true for our township government as well. After two years of serving you in the capacity of trustee I can say that I understand much more and also have many more unanswered questions. With confidence I tell you that our township has taken some tremendous steps forward in improving our safety services, road department, and human resources all in the name of serving Perry Township and its residents. However, it is also very apparent that we have a long way to go in becoming more efficient, improving our outreach to residents & businesses, and proactively addressing deficits in staffing, funding, and infrastructure.

Related to everything I've stated here, combined with the timing of this publication, I urge and encourage every voting age citizen to make their voice heard in November. Do not leave the decisions that impact our community up to someone else. My vision is for Perry Township to have a voter participation rate that grabs some attention. Prove your pride. Use your right to vote as a tangible way to guide our community in the direction that you want it to go. Don't leave it up to someone else to do it for you.

*Matt Miller*

### COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Last Spring I wrote about the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan for the township in conjunction with the Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This 18 month process began in January of this year. The goal of the Comprehensive Master Plan is to chart a course that applies to all aspects of the township... including but not limited to safety forces, roads, parks, and economic development.

We have entered a new phase of this project that specifically addresses Rt 172. This major thoroughfare runs right through the heart of our township and brings with it many benefits as well as challenges. On one hand it serves as the lifeblood for many of our local businesses, allowing a steady flow of customers, exposure, and transport opportunities. On the other hand, increased traffic means increased congestion, noise, wear & tear on our roadways, and potential for traffic related accidents. For these reasons, we are asking all Perry Residents, property owners, and business owners to scan the QR code on the right to provide feedback targeted to the use, development, and future of Rt 172 in our township. Your participation in this process is critical to its success. Scan the QR code and take the survey today!



Scan this QR code to use an interactive map to pin-point problem areas on Rt. 172. Submit comments, suggestions, and more with this feature.

## TOWNSHIP NEWS

Joyce Martin, Township Administrator • office@perrytwp.com • 330-833-2141



### The Perry Township Rotary Parade & 9th Annual Perry Township Oktoberfest!

We appreciate everyone who participated in the parade and recognize our Course Marshals who

volunteered their time and kept our parade route secured. Thank you, Perry Township Rotarians for all of the wonderful ways you care for our community!

A huge thank you to our remarkable Perry Fire & Police Union members for taking a seat on the Dunk Tank in the name of charity. We recognize and appreciate the variety of ways you go above and beyond to serve our community! It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet and make a splash for those in need. All of their proceeds went directly to Perry Helping Perry! Perry Police & Fire members you are the epitome of Service Above Self!

We appreciate the efforts and talents of our 17 Speech & Debate volunteers who played games all day long with the kids and face painted for a few hundred kiddos from 12pm to 4pm. The line did not cease until closing time! Thank you, Mrs. Kathy Patron for always being our go-to person for volunteer coordination! Our student volunteers were selfless and created so many smiles and memories for the kiddos at both the Picnic in the Park & The Oktoberfest.

A new addition to our Oktoberfest this year was a Hay Ride Wagon sponsored by Mike Scheetz and his family

and friends! Those who wanted to partake in the ride were able to be seated on a bale of straw as Mike pulled them through the park on his tractor as they learned about farming operations, steel milling, and life on the farm. As they exited the hay ride wagon, they were unloaded next to the most interesting petting zoo called Traveling Acres Petting Zoo! We enjoyed petting the calf, cow, pony, piglets, lamas, and the camel!

Pumpkins were sponsored once again this year by Perry Twp. Rotary. Over 200 kids enjoyed painting and decorating pumpkins beneath the Kids Activity tent. We have some future artists on the horizon. Happy Fall y'all!

Thank you to all of our 47 vendors who registered to participate in the Oktoberfest this year! Our volunteers gave of their time and talents all day long. The sun was shining as our community members ate, drank and visited with one another and our vendors!

Cheers to 9 years of Perry Township Community events! Last but certainly not least, special thanks to Keith Nutter~ Area Manager of AQUA for sponsoring our Perry Township Community events!

*Perry Township...  
together we take pride!*

### Scholarship opportunities are available from The Ohio Township Association

- Academic Achievement Scholarship
- Local Government Achievement Scholarship
- Trade School Scholarship

Do you know of a High School student who may be heading to college or a trade school in 2024? The 2024 Ohio Township Association Scholarship Program application is open from September 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024.

The Ohio Township Association Scholarship Program originated in 2005. Many years prior, former board member Paul Smith and his wife, Ethel, gave the initial donation to the OTA Scholarship Fund, providing the groundwork for future scholarships. The scholarships are also funded by donations from County Township Associations, personal gifts, and proceeds from the OTA's annual golf outing.

This year, we will be awarding five high school seniors \$1,500 each for their future education. To learn more about each scholarship, including all requirements and eligibility, please call Nicole Jaros at (614) 863-0045.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



## Police Chief Bryan Taylor

btaylor@perrytownship.com  
330-478-5121

Hello, Perry Township! Autumn is right around the corner, and one of my favorite times of the year. I have recently completed my 5th month as the Chief of Police of Perry Township Police Department. Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with many of the residents and business owners in the township. I thank

all of you for the warm welcome and candid conversations we have had. I look forward to meeting more of you in the months to come.

From our conversations, I want all residents to know the police department has heard your concerns. We are placing extra emphasis on speeding in residential neighborhoods, in school zones, and heavy traffic areas. We understand you want more community engagement from the police department and in response we have developed programs such as Seniors Staying Connected, a Senior Watch Program. Additionally, we have begun the "Chief of Police for a Day" for school aged children to give them a unique look at the police department from the inside! Soon, we will begin offering internships in the police department for high school students who have chosen criminal justice as a potential career path.

In the near future, we realize there is so much more the police department must continue to do to keep Perry Township safe! The police department is enjoying our renewed relationship with our community and look forward to serving our residents. With that as our focus, we are counting on the community's support this fall.

*Wishing you a fun and safe autumn!*

Respectfully yours,

*Chief Bryan Taylor*



Perry Township Police Department

### \*\*\*CHIEF OF POLICE FOR A DAY\*\*\*

*Chief Taylor is now implementing Chief for a day.*

**WHAT:** Chief for a day will consist of lunch, touring the department, meeting department personnel, and sending shift Officers off to their duties from roll call.

**WHO:** This program is designed for school-aged children who are nominated by family, teachers, or friends in the community.

**\*\*\* If you would like to nominate someone, please submit a name, phone number of parent or guardian, and why you believe they should be chosen.**

Please submit this information to Detective Paciorek at [dpaciorek@perrytownship.com](mailto:dpaciorek@perrytownship.com).

**WHERE:** Perry Township Police Department.  
622 Genoa Ave SW, Massillon, OH 44646

**Dates will be determined by availability.**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Officer Darren Vanest

Officer Darren Vanest was hired by the Perry Township Police Department on August 18, 2023. Officer Vanest is a proud graduate of Perry High School where he played Baseball as an Outfielder, Football as a Wide-Receiver and Defensive Back, Basketball as a Power Forward and ran the 4x4 relay in Track and Field. Officer Vanest was also apart of the Perry High School Athletic Counsel. He was awarded the Thomas G. WinkHart Memorial Scholarship in 2019 and received the Award of Excellence from the Ohio Athletic Association.



Officer Vanest completed an internship with the Columbus Division of Police in 2020 and went on to the University of Akron's Police Academy in 2022, where he obtained his Ohio Peace Officer Training Certificate. He is currently assigned to the Road Division and is completing his Field Training. He enjoys spending time with family and friends during his free time and is a dad to two kittens.

Officer Vanest takes pride in serving the citizens of Perry Township and looks forward to forming positive new relationships within community.

### Speeders in your neighborhood?

Contact us! We can assign an officer to your area or set up our speed trailer to monitor and help deter excessive vehicle speeds.

Call Sgt. Berkey at 330.478.5121 ext. 705 or email [dberkey@perrytownship.com](mailto:dberkey@perrytownship.com)



PERRY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT  
622 GENOA AVE SW  
MASSILLON, OH 44646  
PHONE: 330.478.5121, Fax: 330.478.3504  
CHIEF BRYAN D. TAYLOR  
[www.perrytownship.com](http://www.perrytownship.com)



## SENIORS STAYING CONNECTED SENIOR WATCH PROGRAM

Seniors can sign up or be signed up for these programs by filling out an application that can be obtained through the link provided or at the Police Department. This application requests important information and specifies what program the individual would like to be enrolled in. There are two separate options. The least intrusive is the "COP CARE CALL" and the most all-inclusive program is the "SENIOR WATCH."

The **COP CARE CALL** program includes phone calls to enrolled senior citizens from the Police Department on designated days and times, (weekdays between 8AM and 4PM). A member of our department will call the individual to check on their well-being. Three attempts will be made. If no contact is made, Officers will then be sent to their home for a welfare check.

The **SENIOR WATCH** program is for senior citizens that may need our help more than others. These individuals may not have nearby family or friends to check on them or assist them if needed. This program assigns an Officer to visit the individual once a week (or more if needed) to check on their welfare.

Once the application is completed and forwarded to the Police Department, it will be entered into a database. From there, a schedule will be set up for the individual based on the program selected.

The Perry Township Police Department values its residents and believes in strengthening our relationships with them.

**SIGN UP NOW**  
by scanning the QR code!



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## LOCAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE



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In April of 1966 Al & Lucy Hosner, along with their 7 children, started Carpets by Hosner. Over the years, we have grown to one of the largest flooring stores in the region and we have held onto our core values of quality, selection, price and value. In 1987 Hosner Carpets joined Carpet One cooperative to provide us with new resources for operations and nationwide buying power. Today, Hosner Carpet One Floor & Home is still family owned and operated by Stan, Terry, and Joe Hosner holding onto their core values established by Al & Lucy Hosner over 57 years ago. Hosner Carpet One has always been located in Perry Township.

We have a total of 12 employees in our office and warehouse, plus 5 installation crews.

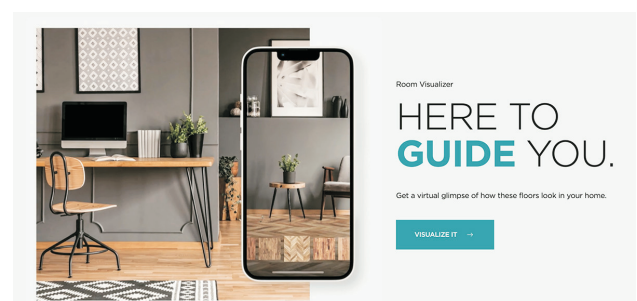
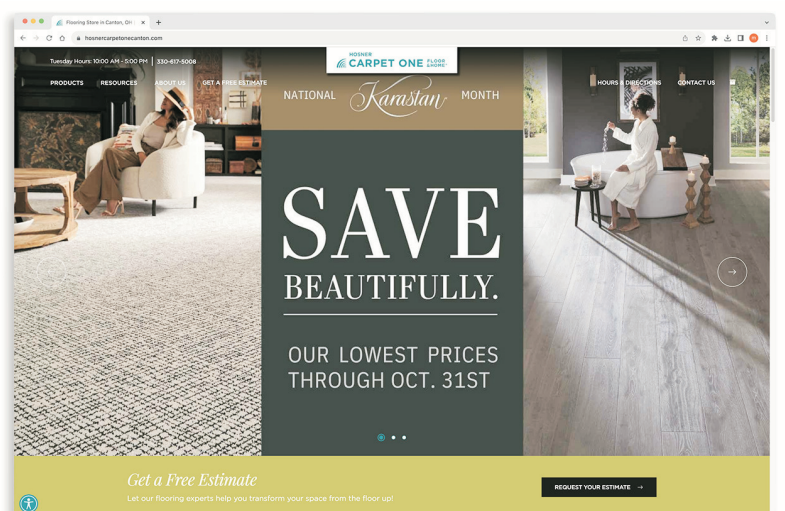
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We specialize in Carpet, Luxury Vinyl Plank & Tile, Laminate, Hardwood, Sheet Vinyl, Area Rugs and expert installation.

We love that Perry Township is small enough that there is a strong sense of community and friendship among neighbors. The Hosner Family grew up in Perry Township, attending Central Catholic and Perry High School, and our business began here which makes Perry Township very special to us.

Coming this Fall, the Cozy Up To Carpet Sale includes select Carpets and Luxury Vinyl Planks all on Sale. Plus, National Karastan Month Sale with a rebate of up to \$1,000 back on Karastan Carpet, Hardwood and LVP. Both sales include interest-free financing for 12 and 18 months for qualified customers.

Be sure to ask about our exclusive Beautiful Guarantee, Healthier Living Installation, and Free Measures. Visit [www.HosnerCarpetOne.com](http://www.HosnerCarpetOne.com) to learn more.



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# FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

Your fire department has had a busy summer participating in multiple community events throughout our Township. Here are a couple of examples of how we were out in the community. In collaboration with our Perry Police Department, we participated in the P.R.I.D.E. Program by assisting with the huge water slide for the kids to enjoy. Additionally, we were honored to participate in the Exceptional Olympics once again where we were able to show the kids just how special they are. They love climbing on the fire trucks. We also had the pleasure of seeing many

of you at our Perry Township Picnic in the Park, in June, and of course the Rotary Parade and of the 9th Annual Perry Township Oktoberfest, in September!

It is the beginning of the school year, and our Fall months are looking very busy as we will be providing fire safety education and fire extinguisher training not only to our school children but various local businesses and nursing homes. We provide basic safety information, so everyone knows what their role comprises of in the event of an emergency.

Our department has been aggressively recruiting and hiring quality full-time employees to ensure you, our residents, are protected regardless of your emergency should the need arise. The additional full-time staff will strengthen our department through consistent training, and stability. This is yet another way we are improving our department to move it forward during these trying times.

None of what we do would be possible if it weren't for your continued ongoing support for which I am sincerely appreciative. Without your generosity, it would be difficult to have all the personnel, lifesaving equipment, staff vehicles, and fire apparatus we currently have. You have been here for us which allows us to be here for you! I hope you and your family have a safe and fantastic fall!

*Sincerely, Fire Chief Larry Sedlock*



## SAFETY TOWN

Mark Murphy, our Fire Prevention, along with some of our crews provided the kids that attended Safety Town valuable lessons about fire safety. Understanding what a smoke detector sounds like, stay low and go, and what a safe meeting place is are just a few of the items covered during our day with them. It was both an educational and fun filled day!!

## Recreational Fires

It's that time of the year when everyone enjoys hotdogs and toasted marshmallows, and let's not forget s'mores over a campfire! However, we need to be safe while doing so! The following are guidelines to follow:



- The State Fire Marshall prohibits open burning during March, April, May, October, and November between 6am and 6pm.
- No open burning or recreational fires shall occur and no portable outdoor fireplaces shall be used in any area where a ban is in effect or at any time during a period when the state fire marshal has issued a ban.
- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, or garden hose, shall be available for immediate utilization.
- Use only clean, dry, seasoned wood.
- NEVER start a fire with gasoline.
- Always have an adult to supervise kids around the fire at all times.

## FIRE DEPT. SPOTLIGHT

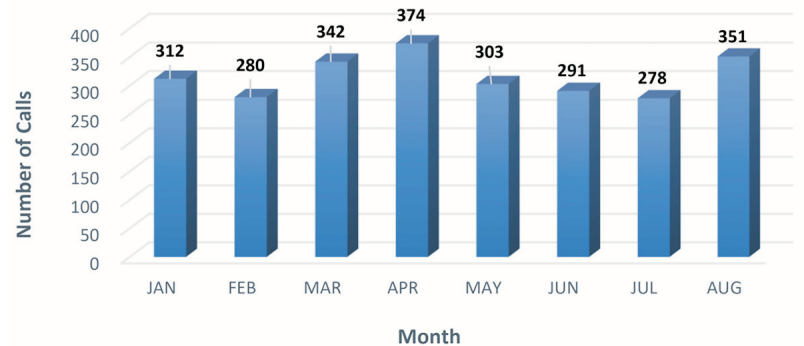
### Captain Adam Reiger

Captain Reiger has devoted his time to the Perry Township Fire Department since 2000. He began his career as a volunteer firefighter and was hired full-time in 2005. Captain Reiger dedicates his life to protecting and serving in every aspect as he is also a Cyber security specialist. A 1994 graduate of Perry Township High School, Captain Reiger still resides in the Township today with his wife, Lisa, 2 dogs, and a cat. When Captain Reiger is not serving the residents of the township and cyber world, he is a Jeep and firearms enthusiast.



## DEPT. CALL VOLUME

Total Calls by Month (2023)



The graph above shows our call volume by month for 2023. The graph represents our total number of calls, which includes both EMS as well as all other calls that we responded to.

## FIRE DEPT. SPOTLIGHT

### Captain Roger Carpenter

Captain Carpenter is a graduate of Fairless High School as well as Stark State College where he earned 2 Associate Degrees. He began his fire service career right out of high school, joining Brewster Fire Department a month later where he is currently a Captain. He began his career with the Perry Township Fire Department when he was hired part-time in 2012 and later full-time in 2014. He holds multiple credentials one being a Fire Instructor that he utilizes to conduct training within our department. Roger and his wife Randi, have 2 beautiful children, Mia and Tate all of whom are very supportive of him and his firefighting career. When not at work or enjoying time with his family Roger enjoys hunting and riding ATVs.



## Smoke Detectors Save Lives

Perry residents, get your FREE smoke detectors by calling (330) 833-3865 or by going on the Perry Township webpage and clicking on "Request Smoke Alarms" located under the Fire Department. We even install them FREE of charge at your convenience! If you need a detector or yours are over 10 years old, call us and let us protect you!

# FISCAL OFFICER UPDATES



**Craig Chessler, Fiscal Officer • 330-833-2141 • cchessler@perrytwp.com**

I recently attended a Perry community event and had the opportunity to renew many acquaintances with folks I hadn't seen since I ended my thirty-year career as your trustee. Many inquired if I miss the old job or enjoy the new one better. I don't miss trying to quiet barking dogs or stop flood waters going into back yards. However, the transition was not easy. My predecessor was so knowledgeable and made the job look simple. It is not.

While the learning curve was steep, I have assembled a superb team and we have transformed a solid but antiquated operation into a first-rate operation, thanks largely to my staff Cindy Seybold and Lisa Bray. We work every day to provide accountability and transparency to the residents of the township.

**WHAT IS A FISCAL OFFICER AND WHAT DOES HE DO?**  
From 1951 until 2007, township residents elected a "Clerk" to a non-partisan (meaning no primary election) office independent of the trustees. From 1993 to 2020, Joe Schlegel and his assistant Karen Moser handled all aspects of the job which essentially are:

- Keep accurate records of accounts and transactions
- Record the proceedings of the Board
- Oversee, preserve and provide township records
- Pay bills in the lawfully prescribed manner
- Prepare and disburse payroll with tax reporting
- Prepare an Appropriation budget for the Trustees consideration

The world and technology changed dramatically in that time. My staff and I have transitioned the office to the universally utilized Uniform Accounting Network. We have engaged a modern payroll service company to streamline the payroll process. I have adopted many Auditor of State recommendations and Best Practices to foster greater accountability to the Board and the public. Every two years, the Auditor of State takes residence in our office for several weeks and conducts a thorough and comprehensive audit of all township operations. Both of the audits of our

Perry team have been excellent and beneficial in improving our practices.

Another partner in teamwork is the County Auditor. They provide the crucial Certificate of Estimated Resources detailing the tax receipts we are to receive in order to prepare the Tax Budget. Every week the Auditor's Office sends payments to the office for the various sources of revenue used to fund our operations. Annually in August, I submit the Alternative Tax Budget to the County Budget Commission for their oversight of our use of taxpayer money.



Craig Chessler, Lisa Bray Right & Cindy Seybold Left

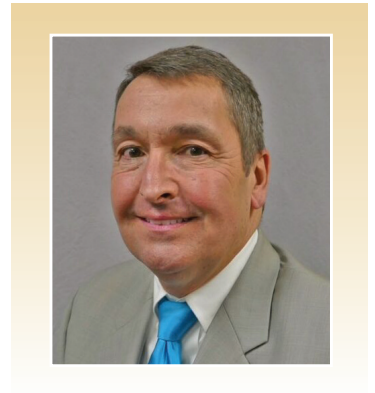
The actual spending budget, known in legal terms as the "Appropriation Resolution" is something I work with the departments to present to the Board of Trustees for approval in January. It was suggested that there should be community input or participation in the audit or budgeting process.

The State Auditor will not allow such a thing.

And according to the Ohio Township Fiscal Officer Sourcebook:

*"Ohio did not adopt the town meeting concept where every citizen may vote on every issue. Ohio has a representative government, the Trustees are the lawful*

*representatives of the citizens, and only the trustees have the authority to make township decisions."*  
Of course, the public has the right to be present for the meetings, but it is the sole province of the elected representatives to approve the budget and endure the audit.



And that leads to another vitally important function of the Fiscal Office: Public Records. The township Fiscal Officer is the record custodian for all public records in the custody and control of the township. Any information, in any medium, that documents the function of the office must be preserved and made available to the public upon request.

In the three plus years I have been in office, the number and complexity of records requests has increased exponentially. That is a good thing since these are the public's records.

For over thirty years in my service in government office, I have been involved with public records issues and have attended countless trainings and continuing education offerings to provide the promptness, completeness and transparency the public deserves. My staff and I have devoted countless hours and provided thousands of pages (electronically and otherwise) to comply with the requests we receive. We are constantly working with our Information Technology partners to ensure a robust search mechanism to meet our obligations.

**Along with Cindy Seybold and Lisa Bray, we are proud of our Fiscal Office.**

Perry Township will observe  
**Trick-or-Treat**  
Sunday, October 29  
from 3-5 PM

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Wills/Trusts  
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Leslie I. Kuntz  
Government

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## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



### Mike Watson

Mike is the newest employee at the Perry Township Road Department. His can-do attitude and upbeat personality make him a wonderful asset to the road department. He was previously employed at the Jackson Twp. Road department, so he brings a lot of experience to the Perry Road department.

Mike is a 2014 graduate of Perry High School. He and his lovely wife Kelcie live in Perry Township and have a beautiful 3-month-old son, William. Mike loves the outdoors and loves to hunt.

*Thank you, Mike, for all you do!!*

As the leaves begin to fall, please remember that the road department has our leaf drop-off program running from October 14th to November 18th that is open daily from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the road department facility at 1500 Jackson Ave S.W. A few other items of note:

- The Road Department is gearing up for the snow and ice season with 3,000 tons of de-icing materials in surplus with more being ordered in the coming months.
- Our new dump truck is expected to be delivered this month, and two additional trucks are anticipated to be delivered later this year. These will be replacing our aging fleet of trucks which are well maintained, however, 25 years old. Our new trucks were partially purchased with American Rescue Plan Act funds, commonly known as ARPA funds.
- The Plymouth Knolls Storm Sewer Improvement project is underway. The Eclipse Company was awarded the project, and they started work on September 5, 2023. They plan to complete the project within the next 90 days.
- We are in the process of demolishing both of the antiquated restrooms at Summerdale & Regis Perry Memorial Park. In late November, we are planning on the delivery of two pre-fab restrooms also purchased with the assistance of ARPA funds.


*I wish you and your family a safe and memorable Fall!!*



**Public Works Director**  
**Anthony Davide**  
[ptrd@perrytwp.com](mailto:ptrd@perrytwp.com)  
330-832-7750

## ROAD DEPARTMENT

### Did You Know?

- The Road Department is implementing a new software system called "iWorQ". This system will help eliminate paperwork and streamline work orders online. 
- The Road Department has not asked for additional funding since 1986. A road levy was placed on the ballot in 2019, however it did not pass.
- The cost of paving a mile of road increased from \$80,000 in 2021 to \$150,000 in 2023.
- An increased amount of funding has been utilized for flooding issues and improvement projects.
- In 2023 the Road Department has completed 655 ft. of culverts, 1,105 ft. in laterals, 200 ft. in yard pipe, and have repaired or replaced 20 culverts.



### Maintenance of Driveway Culverts

A property owner who, in order to provide an approach to his property, places a culvert in a preexisting ditch which is part of a public highway is responsible for the maintenance of that culvert.

R.C. 5589.06 imposes a duty on a property owner which builds an approach to his land to do so in a manner which does not obstruct an existing ditch "along, upon, or across a public highway."

Should a culvert installed by a property owner become an obstruction, it would be the property owner's duty to remedy the situation. Failure to do so would constitute a violation of R.C. 5589.06.

Where a property owner fails to act (remedy an obstruction), the township is required to remove the obstruction from either a township or a county road.

*1982 Ohio Atty. Gen. Op. No. 25*

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# ZONING DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

## Demolition Projects for 2023



Our township has several blighted properties which sit vacant year after year with no improvement. These properties invite unwanted activity such as vandalism and vagrancy and are a safety hazard for neighbors. I have done a significant amount of research to find a way to have the structures on these lots removed and that research is finally producing positive results.

The Stark County Land Reutilization Commission (SCLRC) partners with local agencies to abate problematic properties. With the approval of our board of trustees and by following a very strict set of guidelines mandated by the SCLRC, the first three structures in our township were removed: 215 Westland Ave NW, 3432 Lincoln Way Ave East, and 5044 Tuscarawas St. West.

You may have seen the activity around these three locations at the end of August. Funding from the general budget was approved for the work and the SCLRC will refund up to 50% of those total fees. Ultimately, we will bill known landowners for the expense involved with these projects and apply all outstanding fees as a lien against the tax duplicate for these properties.



So, what happens to these properties? They will be sold or put through the SCLRC's Side Lot Disposition Program, designed to turn tax delinquent, vacant and abandoned lots into well-maintained, tax-producing properties by making these properties available to qualified contiguous property owners. Already, neighbors of these lots are inquiring about how to secure them after the demolition has been completed and this is very exciting! It tells me residents and business owners alike wish to see our community improve while increasing the overall value of their properties.

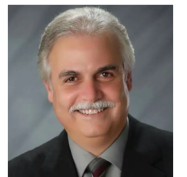
Are there more properties that will be demolished? There are several more properties like these the township is currently investigating. We will be working with landowners whose properties have blighted structures encouraging them to take the initiative to improve or remove those structures.

This process takes time but I believe, in the long term, these steps will be beneficial for Perry Township.

## AUGUST PERMIT REPORT

Permit #	Permit Date	Zoning Certificate Type	Payment Amount	Project Cost	Parcel #
23224	8/1/2023	Sign	\$300.00	11,800	4317068
23225	8/1/2023	Fence	\$26.00	10,200	4700110
23226	8/1/2023	Fence	\$49.00	8,000	4308350
23227	8/2/2023	Fence	\$16.50	4,000	4311150
23228	8/2/2023	Accessory Structure	\$44.20	5,450	4300604
23229	8/2/2023	Fence	\$23.00	4,000	4300604
23230	8/3/2023	Pool	\$50.00	4,000	4307151
23231	8/7/2023	Fence	\$15.00	3,200	4304695
23232	8/8/2023	Fence	\$23.40	2,461	4308321
23234	8/9/2023	Sign	\$300.00	4,000	4306108
23235	8/10/2023	Addition to residential structure	\$49.00	10,000	4309432
23236	8/10/2023	Fence	\$18.40	8,390	4312860
23237	8/10/2023	Accessory Structure	\$49.00	6,000	4311143
23239	8/18/2023	Accessory Structure	\$35.00	16,200	4319216
23240	8/21/2023	Sign	\$50.00	0	4304475
23242	8/21/2023	Accessory Structure	\$101.80	7,000	4600018
23243	8/21/2023	Fence	\$46.60	11,325	4317851
23244	8/23/2023	Addition to residential structure	\$25.00	9,000	4316993
23245	8/23/2023	Addition to residential structure	\$53.80	20,000	4303898
23246	8/28/2023	Certificate of Conformance	\$40.00	40	4306600
23247	8/29/2023	Certificate of Conformance	\$40.00	40	10002019
23248	8/29/2023	Certificate of Conformance	\$40.00	40	4304474
23249	8/29/2023	Accessory Structure	\$0.00	5,000	10011001
23250	8/29/2023	Fence	\$42.40	10,000	4305620
23252	8/30/2023	Accessory Structure	\$0.00	21,060	4306214
23253	8/30/2023	Fence	\$15.00	500	4308142
23254	8/31/2023	Addition to residential structure	\$73.00	31,000	4308272
			<b>\$1,526.10</b>	<b>212,706</b>	

## Empowering Our Community Through Ohio Home Rule



Unlike municipalities, Ohio Townships possess only those powers expressly delegated to them by state statute. In Chapter 504 of the Ohio Revised Code, it permits townships with at least 2,500 residents in an unincorporated area to adopt a limited home-rule government.

We are fortunate that previous Perry Township Trustees placed this question on the ballot and received resident approval. By being a home rule township, it grants our community greater autonomy and decision making powers within the state law. This privilege is an opportunity for us to guide our township, tailor laws to meet our specific needs and ensure a thriving community. By having this ability, Perry Township can make decisions that align with the values and wishes of our residents, ensuring your voices are heard and our interests are protected. Home rule also affords our township opportunities for future state law modifications that may be delegated to only home rule townships. Home Rule allows us to be proactive in addressing local issues such as nuisance abatement and responding to the needs of our residents by providing effective solutions. It gives us authority to impose civil fines up to \$1,000 for code violations. An example of its use is that our zoning department has handled over 800 property maintenance complaints within the past two years. Our board of trustees are always open to using home rule authority when necessary.

Resolutions currently approved include residential property maintenance, excessive noise, public assembly, dogs, park rules, and trees within the road right of way. A fundamental part of home rule is community engagement. Participation from our community in the decision-making process is important. Your concerns and suggestions play a significant role in shaping the policies and direction of Perry Township. Together, we can create a community where everyone has a voice, and decisions are made collectively for the betterment of our community. Collaboration and communication are key to achieving our shared goals and maintaining the trust of our residents.

Let's continue to embrace this opportunity by working together to create pride in a township that is prosperous and a great example of the benefits of local township government.

Respectfully,  
**Ralph DeChiara Jr, Perry Township Trustee**

## LOCAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE

### MICHAEL D'S DEMARIO'S PIZZA

1411 1/2 Whipple Ave. NW  
www.michaeldsdemarios.com

Michael D's first opened in January of 2006. Michael D's/DeMarios Bar & Grille has always been located in Perry Township on the corner of 14th Street and Whipple Ave.

Phil DeMario was the originator of Michael D's. Current owners are Alyssa & Trevor Rice who purchased it in 2018. Alyssa worked here for many years part time bartending under former owner, Phil. She enjoyed the business, employees and customers during her time working here. When she was presented with the opportunity to purchase Michael D's / DeMario's Pizza and work alongside many of the people she knew for 11 years, she jumped at the opportunity. Since then, we expanded the business to include The Cafe at Michael D's, offering breakfast and lunch.

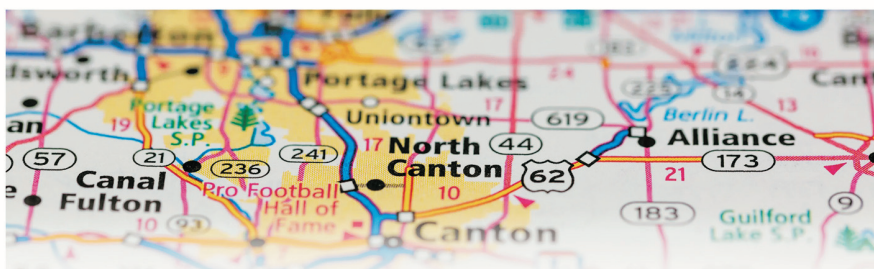
We take pride in serving you a consistently great meal. Enjoy a full menu featuring appetizers, pastas, broasted chicken, pizza and more. Our weekend dinner features are amazing and are always a hit.

Looking for a perfect late-night gathering spot? Enjoy live entertainment and local DJs accompanied by great domestic & craft beer and our famous pizza.

There's nothing more powerful than a community -- a group of people who 'get it' and support you. We have encountered many wonderful people here in Perry Township who continue to show us love and support. We would not be able to run our small locally-owned restaurant without that continued!

Perry Township's best kept secret... a fun sports bar with unexpectedly awesome food. You'll wonder why it took you so long to visit.

The Cafe at Michael D's Hours: Monday- Sunday 7-2pm  
Michael Ds/DeMarios Pizza: Sunday-Thursday 11AM-11PM, Friday & Saturday- 11AM-1AM



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# LEAF DROP OFF SCHEDULE

**WHERE:**

Perry Township Road Garage  
1500 Jackson Ave S.W., Massillon

**WHEN:**

October 14, 2023 - November 18, 2023.

**HOURS**

Monday through Friday • 7 a.m. to 2: 30 p.m.  
Saturdays and Sundays • 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

It will be closed on November 10th, 2023, in observance of Veteran's Day.

# HELP PREVENT DRAINAGE PROBLEMS

To help prevent drainage problems, please remember not to rake leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into storm sewers, ditches, or streets. It is up to the homeowner to rake their leaves out of their ditches. It is illegal to dump oil, anti-freeze, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous products into ditches, culverts, or catch basins.

If you see illegal dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department at (330)493-9904.



## Stark County Phone Numbers

Akron-Canton Airport	330-499-4221	Dominion East Ohio Gas	330-477-9411
Board of Education	330-492-8136	AEP	800-362-2764
Board of Elections	330-451-8683	First Energy	800-633-4766
Building Department	330-451-1770	Kimble	800-201-0005
Canton-Stark County Crime Lab	330-484-4801	Republic Waste	800-247-3644
Dog License	330-451-7354	Waste Management/Canton	844-492-9417
Dog Warden	330-451-2343	Stark County Auditor Main Line	330-451-7357
Emergency Management Agency	330-451-3900	Auditor	330-451-7291
Fair Housing	330-451-7775	Appraisal Dept.	330-451-7085
Health Department	330-493-9904	Board of Revision	330-451-7998 or 330-451-7949
House Numbering	330-451-7843	Commercial Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV)	330-451-7294
Humane Society	330-453-5529	Destroyed Property	330-451-7640
Regional Planning Commission	330-451-7389	Estate Tax	330-451-7184
Sanitary Engineer	330-451-2357	Fiscal Dept.	330-451-7504
Soil and Water Conservation	330-489-4476	GIS	330-451-7193
Stark Parks	330-477-3552	Homestead Dept.	330-451-7323
Stark-Tusc-Wayne Joint Waste Management District	330-874-2258	Manufactured Homes	330-451-7640
Subdivision Engineer	330-451-7403	Maps	330-451-7341
Veterans Services	330-451-7457	Settlements/Budgets	330-451-7325
Aultman Hospital	330-452-9911	Transfer Dept.	330-451-7322 or 330-451-7333
Mercy Medical Center	330-489-1000	Vendor's License	330-451-7354
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Spectrum Cable	330-694-7259		
Aqua Ohio	877-987-2782		

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