

Fire Dept. Updates

Police Dept. Updates

Road & Parks Dept. News

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

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SUMMER 2025



# PERRY Township News

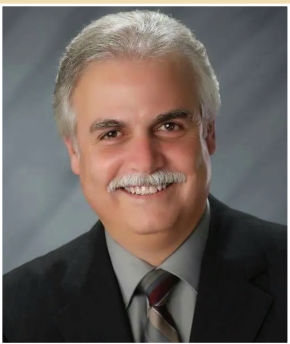
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EMBRACING THE START OF SUMMER YET ANTICIPATING FALL FUN

## The 11th Annual Perry Township Oktoberfest and Rotary Community Parade



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As we relish the warmth and sunshine of summer, it's hard not to think ahead to the crisp air and vibrant colors of autumn. We are thrilled to announce the 11th Annual Rotary Parade and Oktoberfest, proudly sponsored by Aqua, scheduled for September 20, 2025. Mark your calendars! The parade will kick off at 10:30 a.m., followed immediately by a day filled with delightful Oktoberfest activities until 3:00 p.m. We're excited to share that this year's event will feature some exciting changes, so be sure to stay tuned for more information. To keep up with the latest updates, make sure to check the Perry Township Facebook page and website regularly. If you're interested in participating in the parade or becoming a vendor for Oktoberfest, simply scan the appropriate QR code on the right to sign up. We can't wait to celebrate the season with all of you!



**Vendor**



**Parade**

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## The Halfway Point *An Update from Trustee Matt Miller*

Looking back at the first half of 2025 and looking ahead at the possibilities that are in store heading into 2026, I am filled with appreciation for what we've accomplished already and with a sense of optimism for the future of our community.

From an outside perspective it might not be common knowledge that the beginning of 2025 marked the intersection of four separate labor contract negotiations and the renegotiation of the employee healthcare coverage. Remaining "status quo" would have made these items come and go without much to write about. Instead the negotiating committee (both sides of the table) took this as an opportunity to:

**Increase Transparency:** By moving fringe compensation items and reflecting them in the base wage it makes the pay scale more accurate to an employee's actual compensation. It should be noted that in certain cases this action results in a perceived wage increase that is larger than the actual increase in payroll cost. Example: Taking out a \$300 annual bonus and converting it to \$0.11/hr in wage adjustment.

**Improve Recruitment:** With a stressed candidate pool, particularly in the safety forces of Police/Fire/EMS, it was a mutual goal to attract talented individuals to work in Perry Township. The simplification of contract language, clarified compensation, and benefits aid in recruiting viable candidates by providing accurate and attractive information that is easy to understand and evaluate. From a wage standpoint (including current wage adjustments) we are still outpaced by bordering townships and cities. However, it is our desire to attract talent that values working in an outstanding workplace culture in a great community and compensated with respectable wages and benefits.

**Healthcare Coverage & Benefits:** Healthcare is of major interest from both sides of the table. From the employer standpoint this represents a major employment cost and the fact that it is variable from year to year makes it a wildcard in terms of long and short-term budgeting. On the other hand, for the employee, it is an important part of compensation and in some cases could outweigh the importance of actual wages. Historically, Perry Township has carried a low-deductible plan, with high premiums (majority paid by the employer) and over the past three years the increases to the costs have skyrocketed. In response, a committee composed of individuals representing the employees and the employer (taxpayers) successfully redesigned every aspect of the healthcare coverage offered to employees. This new plan transitions all employees to a high-deductible plan which decreases the variable cost exposure to the employer by increasing the percentage of the premium paid by the employee, at the same time the employee's total out-of-pocket exposure is mitigated by an employer funded Health Saving Account. This give and take between employer and employee results in employees with the peace of mind that if they (or their family) are covered and the employer has overall less tax dollars going towards healthcare than would have if we would have maintained the status quo.

This is an oversimplification of a topic and process that has many moving parts; however, all these details are public record and available to any citizen upon request. What's more, is that

I personally have offered a very detailed explanation to those who have inquired and will continue to do so for interested community members, neighboring township inquiries, and our own employees.

### TOWNSHIP OVERVIEW

I want to take this opportunity to give credit to our Department Heads for their efforts over the past few months. It's no secret that the job market is a difficult environment and I already mentioned the extremely limited applicant pool that all the area departments are competing for. In the face of these conditions, your Chiefs and Department Heads have continued to evolve and get creative to keep Perry Township moving forward.

**Police:** The recruiting effort made by this department has been out in front and continues to improve. The increased community involvement and visibility has been an obvious priority for this department. Press releases, social media posts, and participation in local & county-wide events has increased awareness and support for our men and women in law enforcement. For the most up-to-date information, check them out on Facebook (Perry Township Police, Stark County, Ohio)

**Fire & EMS:** This group has been hit the hardest in terms of personnel. However, it has also been the most responsive to market conditions and willing to adjust accordingly. Unsure if the details will be finalized by the publishing of this article, but the most recent developments are the coordinated effort to construct a lateral-transfer policy and a plan to incentivize EMTs progressing to fully credentialed Paramedics.

**Administration:** If you have engaged the township in any way then you know the importance of a helpful and engaging administrative office. Right now, we are in the process of hiring a new leader in this role. In my opinion this marks a monumental hire for Perry Township as this position engages with every aspect of township business. They interface with all departments, the public, as well as government agencies at the County and State level. In the interim, I must recognize the efforts of Christina Whittenberger to step up and keep things running smoothly as we navigate the hiring process.

**Zoning:** This department is truly an unsung hero of our township. It is not pleasant work informing individuals they must clean up their yard, move their fence, or change their plans for a pool or shed. The neighbors and neighborhoods that benefit from the enforcement of these regulations do so without even noticing. However, when something is out of line it is the Zoning Department that is often depended on to provide a remedy. It is no easy task to balance the rights and freedoms we enjoy as individuals with the responsibilities we have to each other as members of a community. It is that difficult and important task that the Zoning Department navigates every day.

**Roads:** As a law-abiding citizen, with good health, and some good luck you may never have the need to call the Fire Department or speak to a Police Officer. However, to get from here to there you'll need to travel on township roads. This department's responsibilities outpace their time, manpower, and budget. Yes, it has been very difficult to get funding approved for paving

roads, but this department's operative function is road maintenance, and, in that sense, they have been punching above their weight. They feel the most appreciation and love in the winter when they are called in at 3AM to get roads cleared and safe for our morning commute, but they also clear ditches, fill potholes, repair or install culverts, and cleanup damage after heavy storms. Like the Police Department, one of their initiatives is to increase awareness by using social media to promote the services offered to township residents as well as day-to-day departmental operations. Find them by searching for Perry Township Road Department on Facebook.

**Parks:** We are in full swing when it comes to park use. Our pavilions are housing birthdays and family reunions, courts are hosting games and matches nightly, and our trails and walking paths are serving as valued community assets. Meredith Park has seen the full grant funding cycle and had its official opening this spring. Next on the docket is executing a \$250K reimbursement grant for improvements & development of Fasnacht Park. Keeping in-mind our township's parks and recreation facilities are not officially funded, nor does it have a dedicated department/personnel (*park oversight is an add-on responsibility to the Public Works Director (whose primary job is to manage the Road Department) and funding for park operations does not utilize Road Department dollars*) we have been improving our offering to residents through grants, donations, and volunteer work by adding low (tax dollar) cost and low maintenance assets. The goal is to eventually start up a dedicated parks department, but for now we will continue to move forward within our means and at a pace we can sustain. Enjoy our current amenities and keep an eye out as we grow.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

Best wishes to you and your family. I hope you are enjoying these Ohio summer months that we dream about during the cold weeks of winter. We have tremendous momentum building here in Perry Township. Our departments are strengthening, we are successfully developing community assets without using tax dollars, and we are not shying away from difficult situations (legacy issues with healthcare, union contracts, and the Lincoln Way corridor.) Plans for future communication include updates on a Parks Committee, Comprehensive Master Plan, and efforts to spur economic development.

Finally, I cannot go without a word of general encouragement. All of us carry personal burdens. Some of us have lost jobs, maybe lost loved ones, struggling in our relationships or our finances... we consume a scroll of negativity, with a funny cat video mixed in (not frequently enough.) The point is that we don't need to know what someone else is carrying to acknowledge that they're carrying it. So, when that car goes through the four way stop and it was your turn, or the waitress overfills your water at dinner, maintain your composure, suppress your outrage, and see the opportunity to bless that situation with the confidence that we are not made or broken by the small stuff. Join in the effort to make Perry Township a better place because you're in it.

*We are tough. We are kind. We are Perry.*

*Matt Miller*



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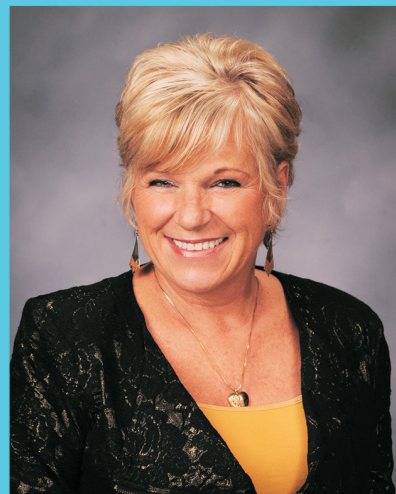
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# FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

**Hello Everyone,**

Well, summertime is in full swing. I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am. I like the summer months when I can be outside, enjoying the beautiful weather, even if it is just putting around the yard, taking care of the garden, cooking on the grill, or relaxing on the patio with friends or neighbors.

We have been busy with both calls and community activities. Events like Career Day, Exceptional Olympics,

Memorial Day Remembrance, Hero Run, Ice Cream and a Movie, Touch-A-Truck, and, let us not forget, station tours keep us plenty busy.

As you can see, we are in the community because we want you to know we are here for you beyond emergency calls. We provide education and answer questions about our department. We proudly display equipment for all of you to see what we have to care for you if the need arises. Another way we offer support is by providing educational safety handouts that range from cooking tips to carbon monoxide safety.

Regardless of how you are enjoying this wonderful time of year, rest assured that your fire department is here to assist you should the need arise. The dedicated men and women of the department are committed to protecting you and our community as we strive to provide exceptional customer service.

Additionally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our department. Without your generosity, we would not have the latest lifesaving equipment and fire apparatus that we do, especially with the rapidly increasing costs. Although it has been difficult, we are trying to add more full-time personnel to ensure we have adequate staffing to meet our rising call demands. Again, this is only possible because of you.

I truly appreciate your gracious support and sincerely hope you and your family safely enjoy the summertime that is upon us.

*Sincerely, Fire Chief Larry Sedlock*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Mike Deyaeger

Please welcome Mike Deyaeger to the Perry Township Fire Department family.

Mike began his career at several other fire departments as a part-time Firefighter/Paramedic, where he remains as he serves their communities as well.

He brings a wealth of knowledge and certifications to our department. Mike is a Level II Firefighter, State of Ohio certified Paramedic, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor II, Fire Safety Inspector, Live Fire Instructor, Ropes Technician, EVOC Instructor, BLS and ACLS Instructor.

Mike is dedicated to our profession as he trains daily to ensure that if and when an emergency occurs, he is someone who can be counted on, and because of that, he received an accommodation for the hours of training he completed on his own time last year.

As you can see, Mike is a very busy person, but in his free time, he enjoys working around his house, but most importantly, he dedicates himself to and enjoys spending time with his loving wife and two daughters. They typically enjoy time either outside or watching movies together. If the weather allows, he can also be found riding his motorcycle.

We are honored to have Mike with us.



## Fire Dept. Equipment Profile: The Gator 2

A highly functional piece of equipment that our department has to serve you should the need arise, is our Gator 2.

Our John Deere Gator is a 2008, 2x2/4x4 utility vehicle that serves as a multi-function apparatus for our department.

It is a mid-size vehicle that seats two firefighters and is equipped with an interchangeable medical bed or slide-in fire pump. Even though it is mid-sized, it is compact enough to get into those tight places that we may encounter when we are required to go off-road. In addition to the medical bed and slide-in fire pump, it is equipped with a powerful winch for dragging brush or small trees should the need arise.

The medical bed is versatile and capable of transporting an injured person on a backboard if needed from most off-road areas where our medical units can't get to, such as a walking path in any of our park areas.

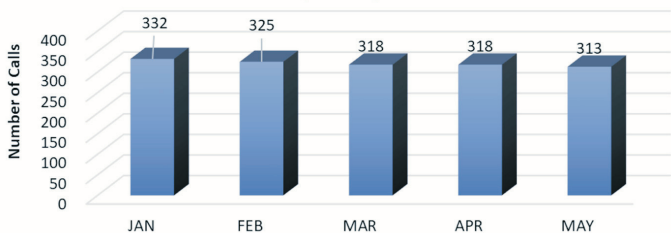
The slide-in fire pump is a fantastic piece of equipment that has proven itself time and time again when the call comes in for a grass fire that is far enough off the roadway for our engines to access. It is equipped with a pump, a 75-gallon water tank, and a fire hose that easily allows us to reach and extinguish the fire.

This is yet another piece of equipment that we have to serve the Perry community.

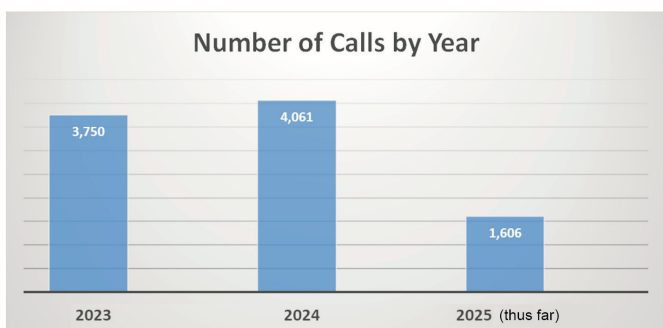


### FIRE DEPT. CALL VOLUME

Total Calls by Month (2025)



Number of Calls by Year



### Get a FREE Address Sign



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.** Our address signs are made from highly reflective materials that illuminate when light hits them. Headlights or our emergency lights make the sign extremely visible.

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. You can also scan the QR code which will take you to the page.

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# POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

## Helping Us Help You This Summer

As summer arrives in Perry Township, we know many of you will be heading out for vacations, enjoying time with family, or simply spending more time outdoors. While it's a season for fun and relaxation, it can also be a time when property

crimes, like thefts from vehicles or open garages, tend to increase.

Our officers remain committed to keeping our neighborhoods safe, but we rely on you to be our partners in prevention.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to help safeguard your home and property this summer:

- Always lock your vehicles and homes, even if you're just stepping away briefly.
- Keep valuables out of sight or remove them entirely from your vehicle.
- Shut and secure garage doors, even during the day.
- Use outdoor lighting or motion detectors to deter would-be thieves.
- Let a trusted neighbor know if you'll be away for an extended time.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately, no tip is too small.

In addition, if you're planning to travel, we offer free vacation checks. Simply contact the Perry Township Police Department at 330-478-5121, and we'll add your residence to our list for extra patrol attention while you're away.

Together, we can reduce crimes of opportunity and ensure our community stays safe and secure throughout the summer months. Enjoy the season and thank you for helping us help you!

*Warm regards, Chief Taylor*

## POLICE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Nathaniel Huston

The Perry Township Police Department is proud to shine the Officer Spotlight on Officer Nathaniel Huston, a dedicated law enforcement professional, military veteran, and family man who exemplifies what it means to serve with integrity, commitment, and care.

Officer Huston has been a valued member of our department since 2015, bringing with him a strong academic foundation and disciplined background. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Cedarville University, where his passion for public safety and leadership began to take shape. In addition to his work in Perry Township, Officer Huston served with honor in the Ohio Army National Guard from 2014 to 2024. As a Military Police Officer, he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant, honing the leadership and tactical skills that continue to benefit our department and community today.

Officer Huston is currently a member of the Violent Crimes Task Force. He also serves as a Firearms Instructor and Field Training Officer, playing a critical role in mentoring and preparing the next generation of Perry Township officers.

Beyond the badge, Officer Huston enjoys spending quality time with his wife and three children. Whether planning a family outing or simply enjoying a quiet evening at home, he's deeply committed to the values of faith, family, and service.

We're honored to have Officer Huston as part of the PTPD family. His leadership, experience, and dedication make him an asset not only to the department, but to the entire Perry Township community.



## Cops and Bobbers 2025: Another Great Catch!



The Perry Township Police Department is proud to report that our annual Cops and Bobbers youth fishing event was a tremendous success once again this year! Held in partnership with several incredible organizations and volunteers, this event brought together local kids, officers, and community members for an evening of fishing, fun, and building lasting connections.

Young anglers enjoyed a chance to learn fishing basics, interact with officers in a relaxed setting, and most importantly have a great time outdoors. Whether it was their first catch or just another day at the lake, the smiles on the kids' faces made it clear: the event was a hit!

We could not have done it without the generous support of our volunteers and sponsors, who continue to go above and beyond to make this event possible each year. A big thank you to:

- North Industry Sportsman Club
- Stark County Federation of Conservation Clubs
- Berkley Fishing
- Cast Cray
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Stark Parks and the Stark Parks Rangers

Events like Cops and Bobbers don't just happen, they take a team effort. To every volunteer who helped bait a hook, measure a fish, hand out a snack, or cheer on a young fisher, we thank you. You helped create a day these kids won't forget.

We look forward to casting our lines again next year. Until then, thank you for continuing to support our efforts to build strong community ties through programs that are as meaningful as they are memorable.

# PERRY TWP POLICE

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# ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

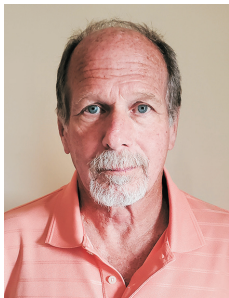


**Zoning Inspector Jeff Whytsell**  
jwhytsell@perrytp.com  
330-833-2141

We are excited to feature two individuals who have been working tirelessly for the township for several years as members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Zoning Commission. We start with **Eric Vick** who has now been on the Board of Zoning Appeals for 21 years.

### Eric, what drew you to the role of being a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals?

become a member of the BZA after my own application for a variance several years ago was denied. I decided I would pursue a seat on the board to better understand the process and also to help others in the township pursue projects which may require variances.



Eric Vick

### What is your favorite part about your role as a member of the BZA and why?

My favorite part being on the board is being able help people and businesses obtain relief from having to strictly comply with the terms, conditions, or requirements of the zoning resolution. Sometimes buying a house in our township hinges on a small variance. We want people to move into our township, not move out if they can't make their home grow with their family. The same goes for businesses.

### Why do you believe the BZA is important to the development of the township?

The BZA is important in keeping things in the township uniform. We want the township to look like a place to move to or bring a business to.

### What do you enjoy about living and working in Perry Township?

I enjoyed growing up in Perry. In my neighborhood we had Tasti Creme. We could walk there any time. We have parks, a good school system, and we are close to everything. My wife was born and raised here too. I worked at Timken. Penny worked at the Perry Sippo Library. We raised our three children here and have no plans to leave.

**Scott Marino** has been with the Zoning Commission for approximately 11 years and is currently the board chairperson.



Scott Marino

### What drew you to the role of Zoning Commission member?

I have been in the Real Estate & Auction industry basically all of my life and have a number of commercial and residential properties located here in Perry Township. This township is more than just a location to me, it's my community, and I feel a strong sense of responsibility toward it. Therefore, it is crucial that high standards are not only set but rigorously maintained across all properties and developments. My goal is to ensure that the community remains thriving for years to come. Upholding these standards will not only preserve the current quality of life but also attract further investment and growth, thereby strengthening Perry Township as a whole.

### What is your favorite part about your role as Chairperson of the Zoning Commission and Why?

I find immense satisfaction in the entirety of the experience. This includes the responsibility of contributing to consequential decision-making processes that directly shape the trajectory of Perry Township. It

involves meticulously crafting well-reasoned recommendations, drawing upon collective insights and thorough evaluations to guide the board's actions. Furthermore, it entails making critical determinations that are instrumental in ensuring Perry Township remains a thriving and vibrant community.

### Why do you believe the Zoning Commission is important to the development of the township?

The Zoning Board stands as a cornerstone of our infrastructure. It serves as a critical mechanism for ensuring that residents and commercial enterprises adhere to established standards, fostering an environment that promotes prosperity and well-being for all. The absence of zoning regulations can lead to haphazard development, incompatible land uses, and a sense of disorder. This, in turn, can depress property values, create conflicts between neighbors, and ultimately detract from the community's attractiveness. Our Township is able to maintain a higher standard of living through the implementation and enforcement of carefully crafted zoning regulations.

### What do you enjoy about living and working in Perry Township?

My family's history in Perry Township runs deep. My father established his roots here by launching his career from the humble beginnings of a single-chair barbershop. He poured his life into this community and in many ways, I feel I grew up right alongside him. Following in his footsteps in serving the people of Perry Township, I've built a diverse professional life here. As a licensed Realtor, Broker, and Auctioneer, and also continuing the tradition as a Barber, I am deeply involved in the lives of the people who call this place home. It's more than just where I work; it's where I raised my own family. This township is not just a location to me; it's where our lives unfolded and where our story continues to be written.



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CITY OF CHAMPIONS Massillon OHIO

JUNE 12 7:00 PM	TRAIN WRECK
JUNE 19 7:00 PM	CHINA GROVE
JUNE 26 7:00 PM	DISCO INFERNO
JULY 3 7:00 PM	NEW WAVE NATION (3RD OF JULY CELEBRATION)
JULY 10 7:00 PM	WHISKEY LOCO
JULY 14 7:00 PM	CANAL FULTON COMMUNITY BAND
JULY 17 7:00 PM	DJ'S ROCK N ROLL BIG BAND
JULY 21 7:00 PM	CROSSROADS BAND
JULY 24 8:00 PM	SLICK 31
JULY 28 7:00 PM	TIM & TJ GANG
JULY 31 7:00 PM	IMAGINARY COOKIES
AUGUST 7 7:00 PM	ERIN NICOLE'S CENTRIC SOUL
AUGUST 16 7:00 PM	VISINATA

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**\*\*Event cancellation notices and updates will be posted on the City's and Chamber's social media channels.\*\***



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- Promote economic growth
- Improve quality of life for our community

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## Director's Message



**John Wellman**  
Public Works Director

### Road Department

With summer months upon us I wanted to give some updates. The Road Department has been working on lateral storm water replacements and driveway culverts. Our other focus has been patching potholes, and mowing roadsides. We have purchased salt and filled our salt dome to get ready for the winter months.

We finally received our two new dump/plow trucks that have been on order for over two years. The trucks will be placed into service, and you will be seeing them out on our roads soon.

These trucks were purchased using ARPA funds.

### Parks Department

The Summerdale bathroom is open. We still must do some seeding and additional topsoil to the location.

Fasnacht Farm Park has a parking lot being put in at the dead end of Meadowood for access to the walking path. We received a grant for a new safer entrance, driveway, and parking area at this park as well. We are talking with farmers about farming the land as well.

Oakhill Park, Regis Perry Memorial Park, and Summerdale Park all had trees removed that were identified as being dangerous.

We continue to receive calls about the yard waste disposal site. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm. We are looking into options since the grant is done at the end of this season.

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Scott Wade, Maintenance Specialist

Scott Wade has been a road maintenance specialist for the Perry Township Road Department for seven years. His outgoing personality, dependability, and sense of humor are a great asset to the road department. His job duties include going on snow and ice call outs, any miscellaneous calls during storms, STOP signs down, obstructions in the roads, etc., along with daily duties of repairing culverts, ditch work, mowing, sweeping, patching, repairing storm drains, etc. Scott is also a farmer, so he has his hands full juggling both jobs, and doesn't have much down time to himself.



Scott and his lovely wife Beth have been married for 30 years and have two daughters and a son. They are also expecting two grandchildren in August, and they are over the moon excited for this! Thank you, Scott, for all you do!

## YARD WASTE SITE

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



Self Service is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please dump yard waste on the concrete pad by the salt dome.

Please empty leaves from plastic trash bags as the plastic cannot be co-mingled in the recycling process.

**Acceptable items:** grass clippings, tree limbs, leaves, shrubs, brush, logs, stumps, garden waste, and weeds.

**Unacceptable Items:** Treated wood, railroad ties, wooden furniture, rocks, dirt, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE YARD WASTE SITE WILL PERMANENTLY CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 30TH, 2025, AS THE GRANT FUNDING FROM STARK-TUSC-WAYNE RECYCLING HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED.**



## Getting Flooded?

You can help prevent drainage problems by remembering not to blow or rake leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the storm sewers, ditches, and streets. Doing so will help to reduce drainage and flooding problems during heavy rainfalls. Please, also remember that it is illegal to dump oil, antifreeze, herbicides, pesticides, or other hazardous products into ditches, culverts, or catch basins. Doing such is in violation of ORC 3767.17 and all violators will be prosecuted!



If you see dumping taking place, please report it to the Stark County Health Department by calling 330-493-9904.

## Road Opening Permits

A permit is required for any excavation in the township's right-of-way. The Perry Township Road Department needs to be notified before ANY excavation takes place. Permits can be obtained at the Road Department: 1500 Jackson Ave. S.W., Massillon, Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M., or online at [www.Perrytwp.com](http://www.Perrytwp.com).

## Driveway Permits

A permit is required for new construction or any other improvements you make to your existing driveway. This permit gives you instructions for paving and apron requirements.



**Jason Varner**  
Owner/Principal Agent  
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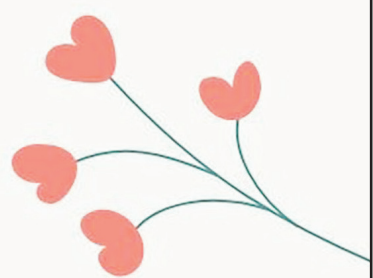
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