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WINTER 2024



PERRY Township News

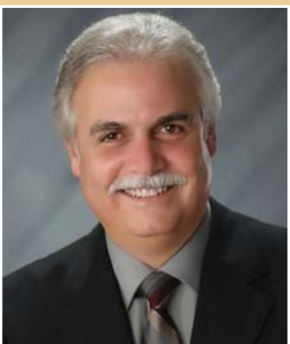
SUPPORT
ISSUE 18!

Your Perry Township Board of Trustees



Matt Miller
President

Mmiller@perrytwp.com



Ralph DeChiara Jr.
Vice President

Rdechiara@perrytwp.com



Lisa Nelligan
Trustee

Lnelligan@perrytwp.com



Craig Chessler
Fiscal Officer
Cchessler@perrytwp.com

Paving the Way... March Levy Proposal

The most widely utilized asset in our township are our roadways, from quiet neighborhood streets to busy commercial thoroughfares, all of us rely on The Perry Township Road Department to keep our roads safe, clean, and maintained. As with many aspects of life, as time goes on, costs rise, and in the case of our Road Department their budget has remained stagnant for nearly a decade. The harsh reality is that at the current funding amount paving is limited to 5 to 7 miles per year and it will continue to decline without an increase in income. Frankly, this is not a level of service that we can be proud of.



Anthony Davide



Glen Reichenbach

THE TEAM & THE PLAN

Your Perry Township Board of Trustees, Anthony Davide (Public Works Director), and Glen Reichenbach (Road Levy Chair) aim to make an immediate impact on the issues facing our township through a Levy Proposal for the March 19th election. The Levy will address three key elements to efficiently use tax dollars and maximize the visibility of the community's investment.



THE BIG THREE

Paving: Over the past two paving seasons the township utilized Covid Relief (ARPA) funds to pave nearly a third of its roads and we need to "Finish the Job." This levy would provide funding that would pave the remaining 100 miles in 5 years or less. This will result in all township roads with new asphalt.

Snow Removal & Response: When we encounter a snow event it is all-hands-on-deck for our Road Department, often with a middle of the night call-in. The deployment of our plowing fleet with current amount of manpower requires over 10 hours to clear all streets. This levy will result in a 20% reduction in plowing time by the addition of two Road Maintenance employees and updating the plowing equipment.

Drainage Projects: Stormwater management is a perpetual hot topic. Large (whole neighborhood) projects are undertaken through partnerships with Stark Regional Planning and Ohio Public Works Commission, levy dollars will provide an increase matching funds and the ability to participate in more projects. Also, the paving plan that is a part of this package will require a large-scale lateral (under-road) pipe replacement program that will be completed ahead of the new asphalt.

UNDERSTANDING & ACCOUNTABILITY

The consideration of our residents on March 19, 2024, will be to have the opportunity to vote on Issue 18, a replacement of 1.00 mill on an existing levy and an increase of 6.8 mills. Our County Auditor estimates this will generate an estimated \$5,783,000 annually, at a rate not to exceed 7.8 mills for each \$1 of taxable value. This is an estimate of \$273.00 per \$100,000 valuation.

Before March 19th, there will be efforts to make the Levy needs and financial details clear by providing opportunities to build understanding through social media, in-person meetings, and printed materials. The Perry Road Levy Committee encourages you to ask questions as we want to be as transparent as possible with our Perry Township residents.

One More Promise: There are two levies expiring for the Road Department, one in 2024 and the other in 2025. With the successful replacement and increase in 2024, your Road Department plans to let the other levy expire and vows to stay off the ballot for new money for at least 10 years! When given the chance to deliver on these improvement opportunities, our Road Department will be on the forefront of a "Promises Made, Promises Kept" campaign to make your investment visible, tangible, and something the residents of Perry Township can be proud of.

Paid for by Citizens for Safer and Better, Perry Roads Committee.

For more information about our Road Department services, please see page 8.

Congratulations Trustee Ralph DeChiara Jr.

Ralph DeChiara Jr. invited long-time friend and mentor, John Sabo (Township Trustee and retired Fire Chief) to present his oath of Office. Sandi DeChiara proudly stood at her husband's side during the ceremony. Also invited were some of the Fire Chiefs that Trustee DeChiara Jr. had served under. During the ceremony there were recollections of pleasant memories and smiling faces.



PLEASE VISIT WWW.PERRYTWP.COM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION



An Update from Board President, Matt Miller

Hello Perry Township and Welcome to an exciting new year that is full of opportunities to improve our community together. Much of the past 24

months has been spent placing new personnel at several leadership positions including Police Chief, Public Works Director, and Deputy Fire Chief. This process took priority over many of the projects and initiatives that can now move forward. 2024 is on track to see the completion of the bathroom projects at Regis Perry Memorial Park & Summerdale Park. As well as the installation of a walking track at Meredith Park to go with the newly graded and seeded athletic fields that should serve our community's Youth Soccer Program well.

An initiative that we are very optimistic about is the completion of a Comprehensive Master Plan by The Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This collaborative effort is intended to provide an analysis of the township in various aspects ranging from economic development to accessibility of parks and recreational areas. Using this plan as a tool to implement a data-driven approach to decision making is another step forward planned for 2024.

Other irons in the fire include the pursuit for grant

funding to begin addressing the needs at Fasnacht Park, Lincoln Way clean-up via demolition of property in disrepair with zoning enforcement for non-conforming sites, and the continued establishment of internal processes to improve the overall experience when engaging with our township offices.

A NEW CHALLENGE

I would like to invite everyone to join me as I embark on a challenge for 2024, a type of New Year's Resolution. My self-imposed charge is to simply "get better." In all things, in all ways. Fighting against the gravitational pull to settle into the warm and cozy comfort zone. It's tempting to remain in the status quo. Being average is safe, it's easy, and standing in the crowd lets the focus be on someone else. However, no one has ever been proud of average. We as a township did not feel Perry Pride by existing in the middle. To quote a friend, "We punch above our weight. Through hard work we prevail over others that look better on paper, and we certainly do not hang our heads, complain about our circumstances, or accept being told "we can't."

If you choose to accept this invitation and walk alongside me on this journey, I would love to hear what you are doing. How are you being a better neighbor? What are you doing to improve as a

spouse, parent, or employee? Maybe you shoveled snow for your elderly neighbor or decided not to participate in the rumor mill at work. Whatever it is, there is no destination, no point to look around and say "I've arrived," there is just the process that is fueled by consistency of effort over time.

Reading over these words, it sounds more like something I'd be saying in a locker room standing in-front of a team and not in an article for our Township newsletter. However, having a larger purpose, whether its being on a football team, serving our country in the armed forces, or being a committed member of a church... the sense of TEAM is a powerful motivator to leave your comfort zone behind and embrace the inevitable pain that comes with separating yourself (or your team) from the herd. Leaving the mountain of average in your rearview mirror comes at a cost that is easier when shared with others. And so it is with our Township, to move the needle will take an effort that if shared across the community greatly increases its chances for success. We have an opportunity every day to step up and carry some of the water toward making our community something to be proud of.

Matt Miller

TOWNSHIP NEWS

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

A New Year in Perry Township



Greetings Perry Township! As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome in 2024, I am amazed at how

busy our township officials have been in 2023. Your public servants have been in action all year long reshaping the structure of Perry Township. Bringing in the New Year means many different things to people. For some, it is a fresh start filled with resolutions, and for others, it is just another day. However you view it, I wish you a safe, productive and healthy 2024. Our Township had a lot on its plate this year. The continued hard work of our governing body and employees will lay the groundwork for a purposeful and successful year for Perry Township.

A very special thank you to Trustee Lisa Nelligan who has served our Township as Board President for the past two years. Lisa's boundless energy and passion for our township was unwavering at every meeting. We look forward to having Trustee Matt Miller serve as Board President in 2024. Matt's dedication to our community, long-standing Perry Pride and steadfast drive to move our township forward this year will be evident to all.

This Board of Trustees has worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of our township. We would be remiss not to recognize the on-going guidance of our remarkable Law Director -- Jim Mathews for the immeasurable ways he has guided and inspired all of our Township Officials for the past two years.

In addition, our Board of Trustees filled two key positions in 2023. They hired a new Public Works Director -- Anthony Davide and Police Chief Bryan Taylor. Both of these leaders are a welcome addition to our Township Team. They have hit the ground running, engaged with our community, and restored a sense of pride and fresh visions within their departments.

We encourage you to frequently visit our website at www.perrytwp.com for updates and information on Township happenings. As always, we encourage our

community members to volunteer. If you are inclined to become more involved in our community, we invite you to complete an on-line volunteer form also located on our website by selecting the Contact tab and clicking on the volunteer form. On that same page, you will have an opportunity to select comment forms for each of our Township Departments.

We invite you to attend our Township Board of Trustees Meetings which will generally take place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6pm. If you are not able to join us in person, you are welcome to view our recorded BOT meetings at our township website www.perrytwp.com, select the Government tab and click on BOT Meeting Videos. Being informed makes for a better understanding and informed conversations within our community.

We want to stay connected with you. In addition to our seasonal Community Magazine, we invite you to view our Perry Twp. Facebook page, and join our NIXLE Communication text/e-mail program. Nixle is a service free to community members that allows Government agencies and safety forces to communicate with the public about road closings, weather alerts, police and fire emergencies, community events, and so much more. You may sign up via cell phone by texting PerryTwpOH to 888-777 Users also have the option to access www.nixle.com to set up a personal profile specific to the type of messages they want to receive.

Finally, I would like to recognize the remarkable team members of our Police, Fire, and Road Departments, Zoning Boards, Administration office and all of our departments' staff for their dedication to Perry Township. Mostly for how they service our community members all throughout the year.

If there is ever an issue or a question I may assist you with, please do not hesitate to contact me at: jfetzer-martin@perrytwp.com or 330-833-2141.

Joyce Martin



Stay Connected!

In addition to our Seasonal Community Magazine, we want to stay connected with you via NIXLE. This service is free to our community members, and allows government agencies, and safety forces to communicate with the public about road closings, severe weather alerts, police, fire and road emergencies, hazmat, community events and so much more.

How do I sign up for the Perry Township NIXLE Alert System?

- ▶ Via cell phone by texting Perrytwpoh to 888777
- ▶ Users also have the option to access www.nixle.com to create a personal profile specific to the types of messages you want to receive.
- ▶ If you require further assistance with registering for NIXLE, please call our Administration office at 330-833-2141.



Passing of the Gavel

After two consecutive terms as Board President, Trustee Nelligan passed the gavel to Trustee Miller. We look forward to a productive year having Trustee Miller serve as our Board President. His steadfast commitment to our community and strong work ethic will serve our community well. Trustee Miller is the epitome of Perry Pride!

T'was the Season of Fellowship & Giving!

As we thankfully gathered together at our Annual Township Christmas Party hosted at the administration office, we brought our favorite dishes and enjoyed our time together. The smiles on these faces are indicative of our township motto: "Perry Township, Together we take Pride!"

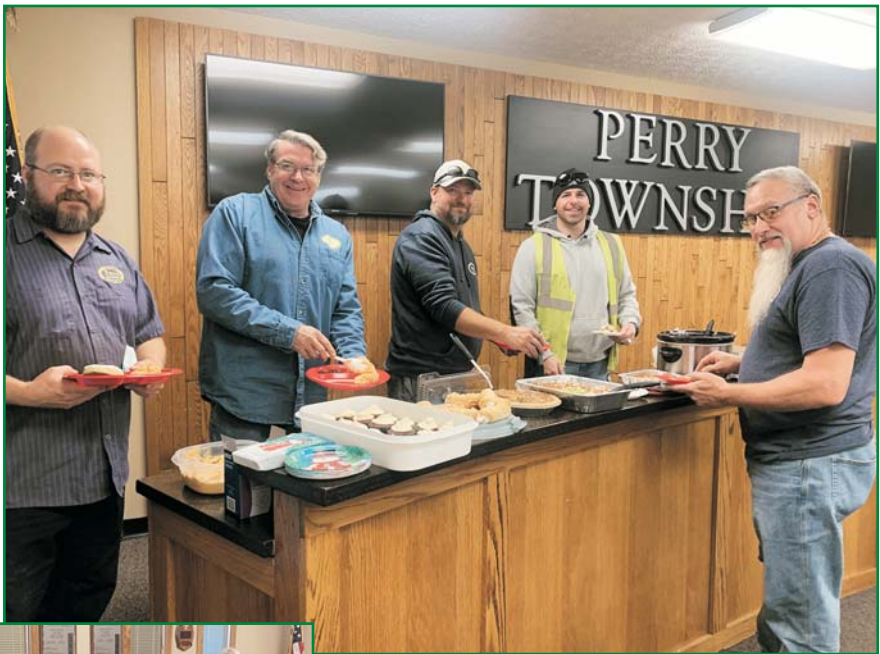
This was our 12th year of The Annual Perry Township Gives Back Program. Thanks to the generosity of your Perry Township Employees (present and past) we were able to provide donations, shopped, wrapped and delivered presents to three Perry families in need of some TLC last Christmas.

During this Season of Giving we all wanted to make a difference and pay it forward! Those who are the happiest are those who do the most for others. We were as happy as we could be with the understanding that it is better to give, than receive!



New Officer

The Perry Township Board of Trustees had the pleasure of conducting the oath of Office for Officer Sarah Carver. Her father, Jason Carver had the honor of pinning Officer Carver. She is a graduate of Minerva High School and a University of Akron Alumni, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and minor in Forensic Science. Officer Carver graduated from the University of Akron's Law Enforcement Academy this year. Welcome Officer Carver!



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Police Chief Bryan Taylor

btaylor@perrypolice.com
330-478-5121

Happy New Year! I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. As we have begun the new year, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank our residents for their continued support. We look forward to enhancing and providing outstanding services to the residents of Perry Township. Here are a few tips to help you to have a great start to the new year.

As winter is in full swing, even a minimal amount of snow on the ground can cause your vehicle to slide out of control. Ice can be very hard to see on certain roadways and can be hazardous when driving. Please be aware and vigilant when driving on the roadways when snow and ice are factors. Slow down and give yourself plenty of room behind other vehicles when these hazards are present to avoid accidents.

It is always important when ODOT and township plow vehicles are on the roadways to remain behind the plow vehicles at least 100-200 feet while plowing and dispensing salt. Never pass a plow truck on the right because the winged blade plows typically throw the snow to the right side of the roadway when they are out clearing them. Use caution even when the roads have been cleared by plows, as wet and icy road conditions can remain.

Chief Bryan Taylor

POLICE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

Detective John Locy

Detective John Locy was hired by the Perry Township Police Department on November 7, 2008 as a part-time officer and became a full-time officer on January 8, 2010. Detective Locy served as a patrol officer until he was appointed to the Detective Bureau in 2022. He is also our department's representative on the United States Marshall's Fugitive Task Force.



Detective Locy is a proud graduate of Perry High School and attended the police academy at Stark State College. Detective Locy enjoys spending time with his beautiful wife Ashley and their children Izzy and Sawyer. In his spare time, he loves working on carpentry projects and is very talented. Detective Locy takes pride in serving the Perry community and we are grateful to have him serving with us each day!

Safety tips to prepare your vehicle for Winter

Preparation

- Install winter windshield wipers, this includes a rugged and durable winter wiper blade that combats severe weather conditions.
- Mount winter tires on your vehicle, they have a better grip for wet and unstable road conditions.
- Keep washer fluid full, fill fluid to the line marked full. If you do not have a line, fill it to about two inches below the cap.
- Pack a winter safety kit. This should include:

Extra warm clothes (Insulated winter coat, gloves, knit cap or beanie, socks, winter boots)

Emergency thermal blankets

Disposable hand warmers

Emergency phone charger

Jumper cables

Emergency car battery charger

Flashlights and/or lanterns

Flares

Hazard lights or triangles

Windshield scraper and a small shovel

Kitty litter, sand, and/or road salt

First Aid Kit

Food (granola/protein bars, nuts)

Water

- Service your vehicle regularly.
- Maintain proper tire pressure.
- Clean all debris from your vehicle.
- Keep your rear-window defroster in working order.



Driving Tips

- Keep your windows, head and taillights clear of snow and ice.
- If you turn your windshield wipers on, turn on your headlights, IT'S THE LAW!
- Keep your gas tank half a tank full to prevent fuel line freeze up.
- Leave adequate amount of stopping time between you and the driver in front of you, braking distance can be a significant amount greater on snowy, icy surfaces.
- Drive using extreme caution on bridges and overpasses during freezing temperatures because bridges can be 5-6 degrees colder than roadways.

If you become stranded remain in your vehicle for shelter. Call for help, you can also tie a bright colored cloth to the vehicle's driver side door handle or outside mirror. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. Poisonous gases can filter into the vehicle if it is clogged. Do not run the engine and heater more than 10 minutes every hour, leaving a window slightly open for ventilation. Light a flare or turn on a flashlight to let others know you are stranded in the vehicle. Utilize your emergency kit as needed. Remain calm.



PERRY TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
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CHIEF BRYAN D. TAYLOR
www.perrytwp.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!



PinkAvenueSpa@gmail.com

(330-737-1421)

@Pinkavenuespa

3300 Bailey St, NW Massillon, OH 44646

LASHES | FACIALS | BROWS | MAKEUP

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



Fire Chief Larry Sedlock

lsedlock@perrytwp.com • 330-833-3865

Hello Everyone,

The holidays have come and gone. Whether you traveled or simply stayed home, I truly hope that each of you had a chance to escape the hustle and bustle, had time to relax, spend time with your loved ones, eat delicious food, and receive all the gifts you wanted from Santa.

Even though the holidays were upon us our department was dedicated to protecting you. During the year of 2023 we responded to 3,711 calls for service. It is our

honor to serve you and provide you and your family with the level of service you deserve. All you need to know is when you dial 9-1-1 we will be there for you.

To face the upcoming challenges of 2024, our department continues to recruit and hire quality, highly motivated, full-time individuals to move our department forward, further develop what we already have, and bring us new ideas.

As we enter the new year, we will all face new challenges as we continue with our day-to-day activities, but these challenges will only make us stronger. Every year we make our resolutions to change ourselves but what if we just be ourselves?

As we ring in the new year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish all of you a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Sincerely, Fire Chief Larry Sedlock

PTFD at PHS Career Day



As I mentioned in my article, we are actively recruiting. In November, Chief Taylor and I attended Career Day at Perry High School. We answered an array of numerous questions from the students regarding our professions. The questions covered everything including pay, vacation, hours worked, retirement, type of training, and how long the training took. These were just some of the fantastic questions that were asked throughout the day.

Our goal was to enlighten the students as much as possible about our professions so that in the future they might become part of one of our teams. We both felt the day had a positive outcome and was a huge success.

Winter Fire Safety

Winter has arrived and regardless if you use a furnace, fireplace, portable heater, wood burner, or any combination of these to keep toasty during this frigid time of the year, please do it safely. The following are some general safety tips to keep you safe as you stay warm during these winter months.

Fireplace

- Make sure you have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.
- Be certain the damper or flue is open before starting a fire. Keeping the damper or flue open until the fire is out will draw smoke out of the house. Do not close the damper until the embers have completely stopped burning.
- Use dry and well-aged wood. Wet or green wood causes more smoke and contributes to soot buildup in the chimney. Dried wood burns with less smoke and burns more evenly.
- Make sure the area around the fireplace is clear of anything potentially flammable (furniture, drapes, newspapers, books, etc.). If these items get too close to the fireplace, they could catch fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out and starting a fire.
- Before you go to sleep or leave your home put the fire out completely.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Store the container outside at least 3 feet from your home.
- Keep a watchful eye on your children.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.

Portable Heaters

- Place the heater on a hard, level, and nonflammable surface. These appliances are intended to sit on the floor, not on a table.
- Keep the space heater at least 3 feet away from combustible materials, such as furniture, bedding, and curtains.
- Make sure to plug them directly into the outlet. Do not use an extension cord.
- Never leave them unattended



Wood Burners

- Have them professionally installed and maintained.
- The fireplace safety tips above also apply to these as well.

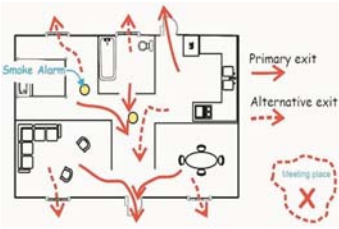
Furnace / Hot Water Tank

- Don't store items any closer than 3 feet to your furnace.
- The best thing you can do to ensure furnace safety is to have your furnace serviced annually by an HVAC professional.



General

- Do not overload outlets.
- Use battery-powered candles.
- Never use charcoal or gasoline devices indoors.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking.
- Close your doors when sleeping.
- If there is a fire, stay low and go! GET OUT!
- Have an escape plan and a safe meeting place.



FIRE DEPT. SPOTLIGHT

Jacki Hickman - Firefighter/Paramedic



I have worked in the Fire/EMS service since 2015, when I started at Brewster Fire as a volunteer. I worked as a Paramedic full-time at Cleveland Clinic Mercy Emergency Department for 7 years before being hired full-time at Perry. I began my career at Perry as a part-time employee in September of 2017 and became full-time in June of 2021. I knew I wanted to work for Perry Fire when I started doing my paramedic clinicals back in 2015. I love the leadership and the community, and every day I get to work alongside my brothers and sisters. My mom always told me, "If you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life." I come to my second home every third day.

When I am not at work, I am a devoted mother to my son, Grayson, and stepdaughter, Paisley. Every day is fun and exciting here at the fire department; however, the best blessing Perry has given me is meeting my wonderful fiancé, Jared Baer, who also works full-time for our department. We were hired part-time together in 2017, where we met, and we are now getting married in 2025!

2023 FIRE DEPT. CALL VOLUME BY MONTH



Address Signs

Address signs are very important to help us find your residence or business in the event of an emergency. Our address signs are made from highly reflective materials that aluminates when light hits them. Light from headlights or even our emergency lights makes the sign extremely visible.



Help us find you by ordering your **FREE** address sign today. If you are a Perry Resident, you can call Fire Administration at 330-833-3865 or you can get on our Township website, and click on the Fire Department link which is located under "Departments". Then click on the "Address Signs" button and complete the form. After that will make your sign, deliver and install it all for **FREE**.

Mark Murphy: Fire Prevention Officer, Veteran of Foreign Wars, Firefighter of the Year

By Fire Chief Larry Sedlock

Mark Murphy is a professional, respected, valuable member of the Perry Township Fire Department and has been dedicated to serving the residents of Perry Township for 27 years. He began his career as a volunteer and was hired full-time to fill the vacancy in Fire Prevention in 2022. Since he has taken over the role of Fire Prevention he has truly excelled. Fire Prevention is something he always had an interest in and when asked he will tell you he loves his job, and his enthusiasm definitely proves it. Since day one Mark has been dedicated to the position. He stepped into the role with very little guidance, therefore, he needed to organize his record-keeping, determine the number of businesses in our Township, determine when they were last inspected, when he was going to inspect them, and when he would complete his re-inspections if needed all while designing and implementing Fire Prevention programs for our schools and nursing homes and businesses.

The records were transitioned from paper to an electronic version. This provides better tracking and searching capabilities. Mark has worked closely with the Township Zoning Inspector, and together they have compiled an updated the list of the businesses located in Perry Township. This is extremely important as it provides valuable statistical information as well as the types of businesses we have in our area. We utilized previous records to update inspection information. Businesses are inspected yearly. If violations are encountered, a re-inspection is required. This is where Mark's professionalism and personality come into play, mainly because he is telling them they have things that need to be fixed. Our fire safety programs provide a wealth of information to students and employees so they have a better understanding of what to do should the need arise.

Why is all this important? All of these are necessary to educate employees and students and to keep the patrons and businesses safe. Fire safety is



President Miller Deputy Chief Gray, Chief Sedlock, Inspector, Mark Murphy, Trustee Nelligan, Vice President DeChiara Jr.

important because in our profession we concentrate on life safety, incident stabilization, and property conservation. With Mark performing training, education, and inspections our community is a safer place to live, work, and visit.

In closing, Mark is the first line of defense for the Perry Township Fire Department. His goal is to make sure you never need us. I am honored that he is part of my department as he goes above and beyond every day he puts on his uniform.



Happy New Year!

from your Perry Township Realtor of Choice!

OUR PERRY TOWNSHIP ROOTS RUN DEEP...

Your Neighbor, Your Realtor

Helping buyers & sellers in Perry Township for the last 15 years.

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE HOME VALUATION!



Kara Kirkbride

330-323-1994

karakirkbride@howardhanna.com



Real Estate Services

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





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

End of Year Recap

2023 WAS A BUSY YEAR FOR THE PERRY TOWNSHIP ZONING DEPARTMENT. As of early December we processed over 300 permits, otherwise known as zoning certificates, and handled over 500 nuisance cases in the township. Several new businesses have come into Perry Township and many, many residents have made improvements to residential properties with such things as storage sheds, garages, swimming pools and home additions.

Three blighted properties were removed at the end of the summer in partnership with the Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation. Moving forward, the Zoning Department will target approximately 2 to 5 blighted or abandoned commercial and residential properties each year for review and removal. The parcels on which these structures stand can then be improved through resale and other improvements.

We have been working hard to control the unauthorized placement of business signs at intersections and along our right of way streets throughout the township. As a reminder, posting these signs in random locations throughout the township is not permitted. Also, you may not be aware that posting signs on any utility pole is actually an action subject to possible citation by the local utility company as these signs and the various types of fasteners used to hang them often pose a safety hazard for utility workers.

It is my pleasure to serve as the zoning inspector for Perry Township and I look forward to another year of positive changes in 2024.

NOVEMBER 2023 PERMIT REPORT

Permit #	Permit Date	Zoning Certificate Type	Payment Amount	Project Cost	Square Feet	Main Status	Parcel #
23302	10/13/2023	Fence	15.00	1,298	78	Approved	4306135
23310	10/30/2023	Fence	15.00	3,262	26	Approved	4303912
23312	10/30/2023	Accessory Structure	44.20	3,000	192	Approved	4309270
23313	10/30/2023	Fence	15.00	2,745	75	Approved	4301330
23314	10/30/2023	Fence	20.80	3,400	158	Approved	4309531
23316	11/2/2023	Addition to residential structure	25.00	14,000	240	Approved	4302840
23318	11/2/2023	Fence	37.80	8,000	328	Approved	4310445
23319	11/3/2023	Fence	25.80	3,965	208	Approved	4309871
23321	11/6/2023	Fence	26.60	10,270	216	Approved	4318414
23322	11/6/2023	Addition to residential structure	37.80	22,000	128	Approved	4304155
23323	11/6/2023	Fence	20.60	6,500	156	Approved	4308272
23324	11/9/2023	Accessory Structure	97.00	1,000	720	Approved	4302050
23325	11/9/2023	Accessory Structure	32.20	200	72	Approved	4305844
23326	11/14/2023	Addition to residential structure	52.00	18,000	270	Approved	4300474
23327	11/14/2023	Fence	15.00	3,875	85	Approved	4312247
23331	11/17/2023	Commercial Construction	261.00	50,000	110	Approved	4300094
23332	11/22/2023	Accessory Structure	34.60	500	96	Approved with Conditions	4306476
23333	11/22/2023	Accessory Structure	50.20	500	252	Approved with Conditions	4306476
			825.60	152,515			

We take pride in our members financial success!

Share Certificates
9 Month: 4.59% APY* | 15 Month: 5.378% APY*

Loan Specials starting as low as 5.75% APY**

NEW MONEY CD Share for \$25,000 or more
19 Months @ 6.17% APY

Tina DeSimone, CEO
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7

ROAD & PARKS DEPT. UPDATE



Public Works Director
Anthony Davide
ptrd@perrytwp.com
330-832-7750

Paving and Drainage

PAVING: With the help of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, the Perry Road Department was able to pave approximately 25 miles of road in 2023. Prior to 2023, the department averaged approximately 6 miles of paving over the last five-year period. Unfortunately, due to the sky-rocketing costs of road resurfacing and asphalt, the cost to pave a mile of roadway has risen by over 95%. This year, the cost to pave a mile of roadway reached an all-time high of \$165,000.00, compared to only \$85,000 in the year 2018. Not only have resurfacing costs risen, but so have daily construction costs like pipes, blocks, brick, cement, and signs have seen a 40% increase. As we enter 2024, we have a budget for approximately five miles of road.

DRAINAGE: The Plymouth Knolls Phase 2 Storm Sewer System Project is almost complete. We are working with AEP to rerun some of their underground power lines that need to be relocated so we can install the last parts of the drainage pipe on that project.

The Canton Water Department's OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant has been approved to begin working on Tioga, 4th St, Oneida N.W. & Mohawk. Work will begin in August, 2024 with completion of the project in the fall.

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT



Jamason Rohaley
Maintenance Specialist

Jamason is our newest employee at the Perry Township Road Department. His asphalt and snow-plowing knowledge, and hard-working ethic make him a wonderful asset to the Road Department team. He was previously employed at the Jackson Township road department, so he brings a lot of experience with him to the Perry Road Department.

Jamason is a 2008 graduate of West Branch High School. He and his lovely wife Lauren, a Perry High School graduate, live in Perry Township and have two beautiful boys, Levi, 2 years old, and Luke, 2 months old. Jamason loves to hunt and enjoys outdoor activities. *Thank you Jamason, for all you do!*

Mailbox Damage

On occasion, a plow truck may accidentally knock over a mailbox, either from the weight of the snow or the plow hitting it. We operate on the assumption that individual mailboxes have been installed and maintained by the homeowner and are capable of withstanding the impact of thrown snow. This is the homeowner's responsibility.

Repairs will not be made to mailboxes that are improperly installed or maintained. Boxes down from snowplow throwing will be re-fastened if possible. Boxes down to deteriorated materials will be the homeowner's responsibility. Mailbox repair will not take place until the current snow operations are finished.

Please fill out a **mailbox complaint form** which is posted at www.perrytwp.com. Look under the Road Department, and click on Mailbox Damage Complaint/Replacement Procedure. Mail your completed form to the Road Department within three (3) days of the mishap. Also, please call in to inform us of the incident, our hours are Monday through Friday, 7a.m.-3p.m., at 330-832-7750.



**EMERGENCY
SNOW
STREET**

**NO PARKING
WHEN SNOW
EXCEEDS 2 IN.**

SNOW PARKING BANS

The Perry Township Board of Trustees has established a snow parking ban on all Township streets whenever snow has accumulated, or is expected to accumulate, to a depth of two (2) or more inches. This ban is for the safety of our plow drivers, safety services/first responders and the traveling public. This will also increase the plow drivers ability to clear the roads at a faster pace. Vehicles parked in the street create inefficient and hazardous snowplowing conditions. Violation of the ban can cause your vehicle to be towed away and stored. The snow parking ban will be advertised over Nixle, social media, and the Perry Township website (www.perrytwp.com). Basketball hoops should be moved off the road, if not, the department has been instructed to plow around any hoops that have not been removed.



Plow Marker Sticks

To help assist the snow plow drivers in maneuvering around in the snow, please consider installing plow markers to help our drivers determine possible obstacles such as turf, curves, and downspout drains. Your local hardware store should have these in stock.



Snow & Ice Control

The road department's snow and ice control has a fleet of eleven full time drivers to maintain over 150 miles of roadway (over 300 lane miles). On each route, there is a first and last street to be serviced. We appreciate your patience in this as we know it is very frustrating. The snow plow will make one pass to open the roads, then they WILL be back to open it up more. Our plow drivers cannot control the run off of snow from the plow blade that accumulates in front of your driveway. During major storms, it can take our snow plow drivers 13-16 hours to clear ALL roadways, after the snow has stopped! The priority of snowplow drivers is to clear main roads first, followed by secondary roads, and lastly dead ends and cul-de-sacs.

- Please remember to remove all vehicles, trash cans and basketball hoops from the roadway to your private drive during all snow and ice events.
- Please do not throw snow back into roadways from driveways or sidewalks.
- Trim trees so branches do not extend beyond the back of the curb or roadway.
- Do not pile snow in front of fire hydrants.
- Properly secure your mailbox.
- Wait to shovel your driveway until plows have completed their final pass.

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Perry Township Road Construction – Stark County Engineer Projects

The Stark County Engineer’s Office (SCEO) had a busy year in 2023, including several resurfacing projects in Perry Township. The following roads were resurfaced:

- Carmont Ave. from Elton St. to Pigeon Run Ave. - Hot Mix Asphalt
- 12th St. from Jackson Ave. to Perry Drive - Hot Mix Asphalt
- Perry Dr. from Faircrest St. to Southway St. - Microsurfacing

2024 promises to be an even busier year for our office in Perry Township, with several large projects on our schedule to begin this coming year.

On 12th St. and Summerdale Ave. we will replace two bridge structures, as well as resurface a portion of Summerdale Ave. between Marion Ave. and 12th St. This project is a joint project between our office and the Perry Township Board of Trustees, and has been a long time in the planning stage, pending funding. With the help of Perry Township we were able to secure funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission to partially fund the project.

This structure and the one on Summerdale will be replaced with reinforced concrete box culverts. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$ 1 million dollars, with \$740,000 coming from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funding. Additionally, in 2024, the Perry Local School District will be constructing turn lanes and providing a traffic signal at the entrance to the new elementary school on Southway Street.

Finally, our largest project in Perry Township in 2024 involves the reconstruction

of Perry Drive between Southway St. and Tuscarawas St. (SR 172). This section of Perry Drive was last improved in the 1970s and the existing curb and gutter, sidewalk and storm sewer system have reached the end of their service life. The project will consist of adding a Two Way Left Turn Lane (center lane) on Perry Drive between 15th St. SW and Tuscarawas St. to tie into the project completed by the Ohio Dept. of Transportation on Tuscarawas St. recently.



The bridge (PE 3-10) on 12th St. over the Johney Ditch.

Area residents may have already noticed utility poles on the west side of Perry Dr. have been relocated, and aerial utilities are moving currently. Starting in January 2024 other utility relocations including gas lines will be relocated. The project, currently estimated to cost approximately \$ 4.5 million dollars will begin in May or June of 2024. We expect the project to continue into the 2025 construction season and be completed in late summer 2025. Also included in the project is new water lines (City of Canton), new sidewalk, lighting, curb and gutter, storm sewer and road resurfacing. A signal, at the intersection of Perry Dr. and 13th St. will also be provided. Maintenance of traffic will be a tremendous challenge on this project. In order to give the highway contractor sufficient room to work in a very tight corridor, traffic will be restricted to one direction (Southbound) for much of the project.

Funding for the Perry Drive project will come from federal highway funding available through SCATS (Stark County Area Transportation Study) and a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) as well as our offices.

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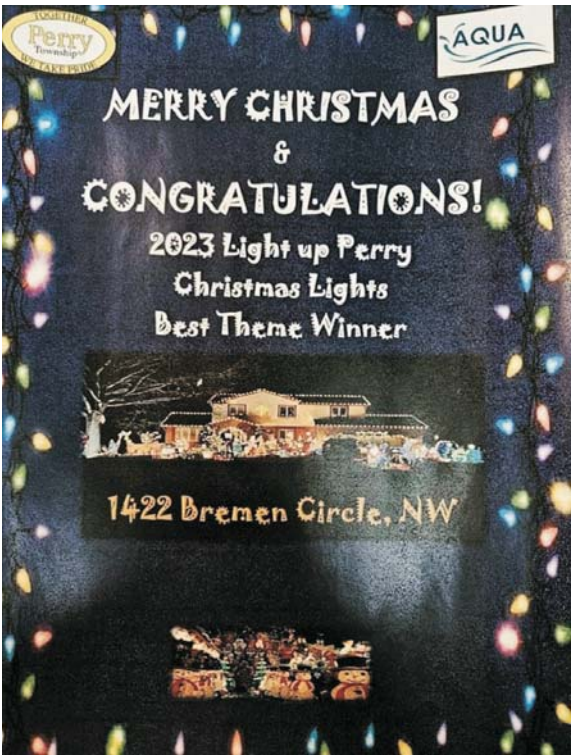
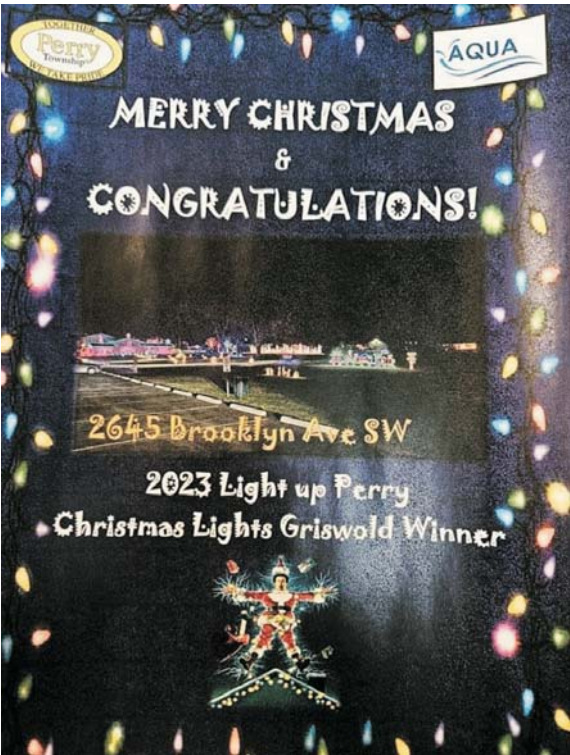
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Holiday Highlights



Light Up Perry: Christmas Lights Contest

It has been stated that community pride is measured by community members who agree that they feel a strong sense of pride in in the way their township looks and feels. The new leadership in Perry is moving forward with exemplifying Perry Pride in all things large and small.

Perry’s pride was shining bright for all to see in December, 2023! The Board of Trustees re-established the Light Up Perry Christmas Lighting program. Our judges were out on December 20th and viewed 18 entries. They were impressed with the work dedication, and artistry used in the light displays.

The first-place winners received a gift certificate to Sweet T’s Cafe & Confections located at 3214 Lincoln Way E. Massillon. Special thanks to Keith Nutter, AQUA Area Manager for sponsoring Light Up Perry!

- The submission categories and winners were:
- Best Griswold: 2645 Brooklyn Ave. S.W., Canton
 - Best Theme: 1422 Bremen Circle, N.W. Canton
 - Best Commercial Business: Rally Sport Classics LLC, 5045 Tuscarawas St. Canton

There were also several Honorable Mention submissions submitted for your enjoyment. We look forward to hosting this fun community event again in December of 2024!



Letters to Santa!

Lincoln & Lily stopped by the Township Hall with their mom to place their special letters in Santa’s mailbox. They were all smiles when they realized their letters were going to be delivered to Santa at the North Pole!

Lillian and her brother Checote were wearing their Grinch attire and Santa hats when their mom, Ashley brought them to mail their letters to Santa. This year, Santa received 33 letters from some very excited kiddos, many of which colored pictures for Santa and included them in their letter. Santa wrote back to everyone who sent him a letter! It was a very Merry Perry Christmas for all!

Santa’s mailbox will return to Township Hall again in December, 2024!



Lincoln & Lily



Lillian & Checote with mom



Sheriff George T. Maier

Sheriff George T. Maier is Elected as the President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association

On November 14, 2023, Stark County Sheriff George T. Maier was sworn in as the 89th President of the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association (BSSA), marking a significant milestone in his over 40 years of law enforcement service. His bipartisan appointment to this esteemed position by the other 87 sheriffs in the state of Ohio is not only a testament to his dedicated career but also a pivotal moment for law enforcement in Ohio.

Sheriff Maier's inauguration at the 93rd Annual BSSA Conference Presidents' Banquet highlights an ethos that he has long championed: "While political parties may shape our perspectives, once the mantle of Sheriff is assumed, party lines blur. Our true allegiance shifts to the people, the community, and the principles of law and order. As Sheriff, the badge I wear represents unity, service, and protection, not a political party."

Reflecting on his career journey from an auxiliary officer to his current role as the Sheriff of Stark County, Sheriff Maier remarked, "We have weathered challenges, celebrated successes, and

above all, remained steadfast in our commitment to serve and protect. I am humbled by the remarkable strides we have taken as an association."

In his address, Sheriff Maier encouraged his colleagues to engage in discussions, share expertise, and establish connections to influence the future of law enforcement in Ohio. "Our duty transcends all political affiliations and uniforms; it's a solemn vow to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities. The landscape of our challenges might change, but our dedication to upholding justice remains unwavering," he stated.

For more information about the Stark County Sheriff's Office and our commitment to excellence in law enforcement, please contact the office's Director of Community Engagement at 330-430-3889. Citizens can also communicate with the Stark County Sheriff's Office using the mobile app, which can be downloaded free of charge via the app store on any smartphone by searching Stark Sheriff Ohio.

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