

**Fire  
Dept.  
Updates**

**Police  
Dept.  
Updates**

**Road &  
Parks  
Dept.  
News**

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SPRING 2025



# PERRY Township News

## Your Perry Township Board of Trustees



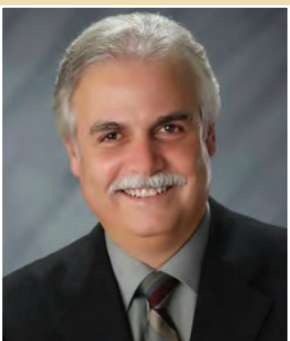
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[Mmiller@perrytwp.com](mailto:Mmiller@perrytwp.com)



**Lisa Nelligan**  
Vice President

[Lnelligan@perrytwp.com](mailto:Lnelligan@perrytwp.com)



**Ralph DeChiara Jr.**  
Trustee

[Rdechiara@perrytwp.com](mailto:Rdechiara@perrytwp.com)



**Craig Chessler**  
Fiscal Officer

[Cchessler@perrytwp.com](mailto:Cchessler@perrytwp.com)

## 2nd Annual Free Movie & Ice Cream Event!

Harwick Park • Saturday, June 14th from 5 - 8pm  
FREE showing of Disney's Mufasa and Ice Cream Treat!

Please join us for our 2nd Annual Movie & Ice Cream event sponsored by Aqua Ohio. Our featured presentation, Disney's Mufasa, will begin at 6pm. Beginning at 5pm, the kids' tent will offer face painting, balloon sculptor, coloring contest, and craft activities.



Bring your family and friends, your blankets or chairs, and a picnic dinner! You may also purchase dinner and treats from Sweet T's delicious menu.

Our Perry Township Police, Fire, Road, and Administration team will be in attendance serving free ice cream and hosting booths to meet, greet, and visit with our community. Stop by and let us get to know one another!

Special thanks to Keith Nutter, AQUA Area Manager, for your continued support of Perry Township Community Events!



Please email [office@perrytwp.com](mailto:office@perrytwp.com) or call Christina at 330.833.2141 for more event details!

## Harold Ritz recognized

Trustee DeChiara Jr. recognized Fire-Medic Harold Ritz for his remarkable 30-year career and dedication to Perry Fire and our community. Several fellow firefighters were present to witness Harold's recognition.

Harold's beautiful family was beaming with pride during his recognition! In true Ritz fashion, he gave his grandchildren the honor of holding his certificate of recognition, helmet and plaque. Harold credited God, his family, and his Fire Department family during his presentation. We wish you a happy and healthy retirement Harold. Your leadership, mentoring and friendships you have fostered throughout the years will always be cherished. You make Perry Proud!





# Spring is in the air! An Update from Trustee Lisa Nelligan

As the days grow longer and the trees start to bud, I look forward to the newness and awakening that Spring brings to our community.

Before I look forward, I would be remiss if I did not recognize what a fantastic job our Perry Township Road Department did this winter with clearing our roads for our residents, our safety services and businesses. There were several long days, early mornings and occasional weekends, when Public Works Director John Wellman and his team were out making sure we were all able to get around the township as safely as possible. Thank you, Perry Road Department.

Looking forward, there is much going on in Perry Township, something for everyone to participate in or attend. By the time you read this newsletter a few events will have already occurred, on April 26, 2025, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Meredith Park celebrating the improved youth soccer fields and the new walking track. On that same day, Perry Township hosted the annual Perry Township Clean-Up Day which residents could clean out their homes and drop off unwanted items to our Perry Township Road Garage.

Also, there was a public meeting showcasing the 2024 Comprehensive Master Plan for Perry Township. On April 1, 2025, the public was invited to come and view this plan as it was presented by Stark County Regional Planning Commission. This plan reflects our residents' values and aspirations for the future of the Township. Please log onto our township website to view the plan and provide any feedback. The comment section will be open until May 1, 2025.

On May 3, 2025, please join the Perry Rotary and the Perry Township Business Collaborative as they clean up the Lincoln Highway Corridor. This is an event for businesses, residents and volunteers to clean up and freshen up our corridor from Whipple to Jackson Ave. If interested in joining or learning more, please contact Karla at rickkarlarobinson@gmail.com.

Perry History Club will be participating in the Richville Garage Sales at Richville Park, on May 8, 9 and 10. Please come out and find a new treasure for yourself and help support the club and their continued work on the one-room Genoa School House.

### Several events are being planned for Memorial Day weekend...

Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 9am, there will be a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at Perry High School hosted by Perry Local Schools, Perry Rotary, Perry

Township and Flags of Freedom. This event annual event is one of the best ceremonies in Stark County where families, friends and community come to remember those men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Sunday May 25, 2025, at 9am at Calvary Cemetery, the annual event of placing flags at every veteran's grave will take place rain or shine. This event is hosted by Perry Rotary, Flags of Freedom and Calvary Cemetery. Please join other volunteers on this morning to take a moment to remember those that served our country.

Monday May 26, 2025 the 11th Annual Hero 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Perry Project Group (PPG). This event brings the community together to recognize veterans, first responders and those lost in service to our country. All proceeds are given to community projects and scholarships for students. To register log onto racepenguin.com/events/hero-run-5k-run-walk. Help support our community while having a great time.

Mufasa is coming to the township in June! Please join the Perry Township Trustees and Aqua at Hartwick Park for ice cream and the showing of Disney's Mufasa. There will be fun events for all ages. Bring blankets and chairs at 5:00 pm, sit back and enjoy the evening.

After all of this, there is still one more way to get involved and help our township, the Board of Trustees has plans to launch a Parks Committee this year. At this stage we would like to gather community feedback on the potential vision and function of this group. Scan the QR code to the right to participate in the process.



Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize Joyce Martin, our Township Administrator who will be retiring on May 2, 2025. She has served our community for 26 years with love and dedication. Several of these events mentioned above, Joyce has either helped create or participated in over the years. She is looking forward to spending time with her beloved family and friends and I cannot thank her enough for all she has done for our Perry Community.

Together We Take Pride .

*Lisa Nelligan*

## T O W N S H I P N E W S

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

### May is National Small Business Month!

These are some faces of our Perry Township small businesses...



Small Businesses are the backbone of our community! These are some of the faces dedicated to serving you, and they are the people who donate significantly to our community causes, creating a positive cycle of giving back locally. This includes local charities, youth organizations, local service groups and many more.

By supporting small businesses and shopping local, you're supporting real, genuine people who have put their passion ahead of convenience and whole-heartedly believe in the business they are running. I encourage you to please believe in them by shopping local as frequently as possible! Now more than ever, it's time to encourage strangers and friends alike to shop small, support local businesses and ultimately keep our community thriving!

In closing, as I retire, I want to share with you that it has been my pleasure being a public servant for Perry Township for the past 26 years. I am thankful for our remarkable community, businesses, and all the people I have had the pleasure of serving and working with. Wishing you and yours all the blessings your heart can hold!

Special thanks to our small business partners at Canton Data Print... Ruby Mathys for enthusiastically marketing our community magazine ads and Mark Brabant for your unique talent and creative design! You both are simply the BEST!

*Joyce Martin*



Falcones Tavern



Rego's Sporting Goods



Diehl Automotive



State Farm Insurance



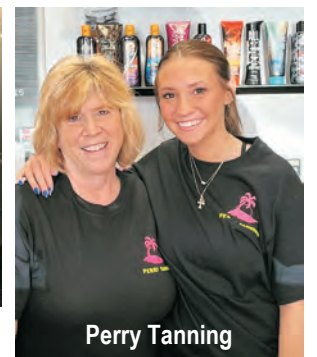
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## Massillon SUMMER CONCERTS 2025

**MASSILLON WestStark CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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

**JUNE 12 - AUGUST 16**  
**DUNCAN PLAZA AMPHITHEATRE**  
1 James Duncan Plaza Massillon, Oh 44646  
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**\*\*Event cancellation notices and updates will be posted on the City's and Chamber's social media channels.\*\***

# MASSILLON CRUISE IN & MUSIC FESTIVAL 2025

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**\$10 PRE-REGISTRATION \$20 DAY OF**

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Noon - 9 PM  
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**KAHUNA KINGS** 2-4 P.M. **STEVE TRENT** 4:15-6:15 P.M. **KARRI FEDOR & KEROSENE** 7-9 P.M.

Pre-Register online at [www.massillonohchamber.com/cruisein](http://www.massillonohchamber.com/cruisein) or scan the QR Code  
330-833-3146

# FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

## Hello Everyone,

Well, winter is behind us. I feel it was a little more of a harsh winter than we had over the past several years. Even though we didn't have a great deal of snow, we had some colder temperatures that kept our furnaces running.

Spring is beginning to make its presence known by providing us with sunshine and warmth which makes us all feel a little better. Spring also provides us with

blooming flowers and let's not forget the smell of that first grass cutting.

This time of the year is when your fire department is gearing up for plenty of community events, station tours, and multiple fire prevention programs. The warmer days also enable our department to conduct more outside training so that we are ready to take care of you regardless of your emergency.

As always, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your continued support of our fire department. Without your generosity, we would not have the latest lifesaving equipment and fire apparatus that we do especially with the rapidly increasing costs. In addition to equipment, our department is moving forward by adding more full-time personnel to our roster to ensure we have adequate staffing to meet our rising call demands. Again, this is only possible because of you.

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

*Sincerely, Fire Chief Larry Sedlock*

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Zachary Hutson

Zachary is a graduate of Carrollton High School. He also graduated from Buckeye Career Center as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and from Stark State College as a Firefighter Level II.

Zachary has been with the Perry Township Fire Department since March 19, 2024. Although he is new to our department, he is not new to the profession. He brings over a decade of experience to serve the fantastic people of Perry Township. Before joining Perry Township, Zachary worked at the Sandy Creek Joint Fire District in Minerva. He has been an active firefighter since 2012 and became an EMT in 2021.

When not protecting you, our residents, and our community, Zachary works part-time with the Brewster Fire Department and volunteers in his hometown with the Carrollton Village Fire Department.

When Zachary is not working, he enjoys spending time with his wonderful wife Bridget and his two children, Megan and Gavin. We are honored to have Zachary as part of the Perry Township fire family.

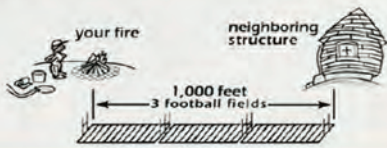


## Severe Weather Awareness



### What You Can Burn in the Neighborhood

Is there less than 1,000 feet from where you want to burn and the nearest inhabitable structure?



Ohio law limits what and where you can open burn. The following fires are allowed if there is less than 1,000 feet from where you want to burn and a neighboring inhabitable structure.

You may have a fire for cooking, warmth, pleasure, ceremonial or similar purposes without notification and/or permission from the Ohio EPA as long as:

- burn only clean, dry, seasoned firewood;
- the fire is no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high; and
- fire is not used for waste disposal.

Larger ceremonial fires are allowed with these guidelines:

- use only clean, dry, seasoned firewood;
- the fire is no larger than 5 feet in diameter and 5 feet high;
- the fire burns no longer than 3 hours; and
- fire is not used for waste disposal.

### THUNDERSTORM SAFETY

Lightning, one of nature's most spectacular wonders, is also one of its most deadly and common sights. It is estimated that lightning strikes the earth 100 times each second!

Deaths and injuries from lightning can be avoided if people take the proper precautions. One important thing to remember, all thunderstorms produce lightning.

If lightning threatens, move indoors. Once inside, avoid doors, windows, and metal objects. Avoid using electrical appliances.

If driving, stay in your automobile. An enclosed automobile offers reasonably good protection from lightning.

Outdoors, stay away from isolated trees. If your hair stands on end or your skin tingles, lightning may be about to strike. Crouch down quickly and make a low target.

Thunderstorms also can produce strong wind gusts. These straight-line winds have been known to reach 100 miles an hour. For this reason, you should treat severe thunderstorms just as you would tornadoes. Move to appropriate shelter if in the path of the storm.

The strong outrush of wind from a thunderstorm is often called a downburst. One of the primary causes is rain-cooled air. The rain-cooled air accelerates downward rapidly producing a potentially damaging gust of wind.

Strong downbursts are often mistaken for tornadoes. They can produce extensive damage and are often accompanied by a roaring sound similar to a tornado. Downbursts can easily overturn mobile homes, tear roofs off houses, and topple trees.

### TORNADO SAFETY

TORNADO! The very word strikes fear in many people. While a tornado is perhaps nature's most destructive storm, deaths and injuries can be prevented. By following Tornado Safety Rules, lives can be saved and injuries prevented.

Warning the public of severe storms and tornadoes is the National Weather Service's (NWS) most important job. To help the public prepare for tornado situations, the NWS has adopted a WATCH and WARNING program.

**TORNADO WATCH:** This means that conditions are favorable for tornado development. This is the time to prepare. You should keep alert by listening to NOAA Weather Radio, or the commercial media for the latest weather information.

**TORNADO WARNING:** This means a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar. People in the path of the storm should take immediate life-saving action.

**IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, SHOPPING CENTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES:** Move to designated shelter areas. Interior hallways on the lowest level are usually best. Stay away from windows and out of auditoriums, gymnasiums, or other structures with large free-span roofs. Garden City Schools are equipped with special radio receivers that alert officials to severe weather watches and warnings so that they can take appropriate action.

**IN VEHICLES:** Do not try to outrun a tornado. Abandon your vehicle and hide in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head.

**AT HOME:** Go to the lowest level of your home, such as a basement, or an interior room. Stay away from windows.

### Jason Varner

Owner/Principal Agent

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cell (330)904-8641

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## 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 even our emergency lights make the sign extremely visible.

If you are a Perry resident, you can 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. After ordering, we will make your sign, deliver, and install it all for **FREE**.



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# POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE



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

As we step into spring, our community is embracing longer days, warmer weather, and new opportunities to connect and enjoy the season. However, with this transition, we also want to remind everyone to stay vigilant against scams that are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Recently, we've seen a rise in toll payment scams, where fraudsters send fake notices claiming you owe fees, directing you to fraudulent websites designed to steal your information. See the image below for an example of a scam text message.

To be safe, always verify toll payment requests through official sources before taking any action.

Another growing concern is AI-related scams, where criminals use artificial intelligence to clone voices, making it seem like a loved one is calling in distress. To protect yourself, establish a family password—a unique word or phrase known only to you and your loved ones. If you receive a suspicious call, ask for the password before responding. If something feels off, trust your instincts. Reach out to us, a close family member, or a trusted friend before taking any action. Your safety and well-being are our top priority.

Additionally, as the weather improves, we are seeing an increase in traffic and speeding. Please remember to obey speed limits, avoid distractions, and watch for pedestrians, cyclists, and children playing outside. Responsible driving helps keep everyone safe and prevents unnecessary accidents.

If you're a member of a group or organization and would like us to give a presentation on fraud prevention, please contact Detective Paciorek at (330) 477-4074. We are happy to share information and resources to help keep our community safe.

**Wishing you all a beautiful and safe spring! Enjoy the season, stay alert, and look out for one another.**

Warm regards, *Chief Taylor*



**Peach Pass Final Reminder:**  
You have an outstanding toll. Your toll account balance is outstanding. If you fail to pay by March 8, 2025, you will face penalties or legal action.  
Now Payment:

<https://ohioturnpike.org-ticketrdw.xin/vip>

(Please reply Y, then exit the SMS and open it again to activate the link, or copy the link to your Safari browser and open it)  
Please settle your toll immediately after reading this message to avoid penalties for delaying the payment. Thank you for your cooperation.

The sender is not in your contact list.  
[Report Junk](#)

## Officer Dan Dale Honored with Combat Cross Certificate for Heroic Actions



In a moment that epitomized courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment to public safety, **Officer Daniel Dale** was awarded the Combat Cross Certificate alongside fellow Canton Regional SWAT Team members for his bravery during an active SWAT situation on November 18, 2024, during an incident in Jackson Township. This prestigious award recognizes officers who display extraordinary heroism in the line of duty, often at great potential risk.

The Combat Cross Certificate is one of the highest honors a police officer can receive, awarded only to those who exhibit exceptional valor in the face of imminent danger. Officer Dale's recognition serves as a reminder of the sacrifices law enforcement officers make daily to keep their communities safe.

Chief Taylor and Deputy Chief Fisher were present to support him as he received this well-deserved award.

The department and the entire community stand in admiration of Officer Dale's heroism, honoring his service and sacrifice. His actions serve as a shining example of what it means to serve and protect.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Officer Sarah Carver

The Perry Township Police Department is proud to highlight Officer Sarah Carver, a dedicated member of our team who brings passion, skill, and commitment to serving our community.

A Minerva High School graduate, Officer Carver continued her education at the University of Akron, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Science. She further honed her expertise by graduating from the University of Akron Law Enforcement Academy, preparing her for a career in policing.

Currently, Officer Carver serves as a member of the Stark County Violent Crimes Task Force, working diligently to keep our streets safe. She is dedicated to her career and aspires to advance within the department, continually striving for excellence in law enforcement. Officer Carver was awarded a lifesaving award by Chief Taylor on December 4, 2024 for her quick thinking and decisive actions that saved the life of a township resident.

Outside of work, Officer Carver enjoys motocross riding and cherishing time with her family and friends. She comes from a law enforcement family—one of her two siblings is a detective with the Jackson Township Police Department. She is also engaged to be married and shares her home with her beloved fur baby, Harley. Her close-knit family and support system play a big role in her life, and she is always grateful for their encouragement.

We are honored to have Officer Carver as part of our team and look forward to seeing her continued success in her career. Thank you for your service and dedication to the community!



## PERRY TOWNSHIP PD HIRING!



Join our team and serve your community with honor and dedication! Perry Township Police Department is actively recruiting individuals who are committed to integrity, leadership, and public service.

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[krobinson@perrypolice.com](mailto:krobinson@perrypolice.com)

Perry Township PD  
622 Genoa Ave SW  
Massillon, OH 44646  
330-478-5121

# ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS



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

Now that the weather has changed, yards are greening up and plants and trees are in bloom. It will be important to maintain ongoing exterior property maintenance for both residential and commercial properties here in Perry Township. Please keep the following in mind:

**GRASS AND SHRUBS:** Grass on all properties, whether a developed lot with any structures or open grass lots must be mowed **consistently** throughout the entire mowing season. What is consistent, you ask? Any grass over 8 inches tall is subject to abatement (cutting) action by the Township Zoning Department if the owner or tenant does not cut the grass. Please avoid additional financial penalties and fees by keeping lawns cut. Also, shrubs and hedgerows near the edges of any property along a street right of way must not obstruct vision for vehicles or neighboring driveways.

**TREES:** The township has very limited actionable recourse regarding trees. If your neighbor has limbs overhanging your personal property, you may discuss any potential risks the limbs may pose to you or your property with your neighbor. You may also remove any limbs overhanging your property but in a way which leaves the natural contours of the tree intact. You may not scalp a tree, nor may you go onto a neighboring property to remove limbs without express permission from your neighbor.

**TRASH AND EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Please place all trash in appropriate trash containers. Do not leave bags of trash and debris scattered around your property or even personal items such as tools, lawnmowers, construction materials, etc. All personal items must be neatly stacked if in plain site or stored inside a shed or garage.

**OLD TIRES:** Old tires must be removed from any exterior location as they may become a breeding area for insects or shelter for animals. Unattended tires are also considered a health hazard and are subject to abatement under township zoning regulations and are also subject to civil action by the Stark County Health Department.

-- Let's all do our part to keep our communities clean and safe.

## ZONING DEPT. SPOTLIGHT

The Perry Zoning Department is pleased to announce that Bill Watson has been hired as the full time Assistant Zoning Inspector! Bill was recently interviewed about this career change and what he feels it means to him and to Perry Township.



Bill Watson

**What drew you to the role of Assistant Zoning Inspector?** When I found out the zoning position was open, I did some research and realized that I could continue to make a positive difference in the Perry Community.

**What is your favorite part about your job and why?** Getting out into the community, meeting with residents, and helping them solve some of their neighborhood issues in a different capacity from my previous career in law enforcement. Zoning issues can often be challenging to residents in our neighborhoods, so I enjoy answering questions and explaining zoning regulations to help find solutions to challenging situations.

**Which of your professional accomplishments are you most proud of?** I am most proud of my long career serving the Perry Community as a Police Officer for over 32 years. I have had many experiences, met many people, and made many friends during that time.

**What do you hope to accomplish in this new role?** I want to do my part to help Perry grow and keep Perry Pride alive.

**What do you enjoy about living and working in Perry Township?** I've called Perry my home for over 35 years. All my children have grown up in Perry, having been active in playing sports and other activities in the community and in the school district. This is a good community in which to live and work.



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# ROAD & PARKS DEPT. UPDATE



## Director's Message



**John Wellman**  
Public Works Director

Before I begin with other updates, I want to share with you some stats from our winter season. The Road crews were sent out for snow and ice 20 times for our 150 miles of roadway. Small crews were sent out 5 times for just the main roads. This took place between November 29th, 2024, through February 20th, 2025. We used 4,554 tons of salt treating the Perry Township Roads.

With Spring here, our crews have been working diligently patching potholes. So far this year we have used 48.74 tons of cold patch, and 12.61 tons of hot mix. To report a pothole, please contact the Road Department at 330-832-7750 or visit [perrytwp.com](http://perrytwp.com), select contacts and complete an online comment

form. We will make every effort to patch a pot hole before it grows or causes damage to vehicles. Another spring time topic is knowing that you can help prevent drainage problems by not blowing or raking leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into storm sewers, ditches, or streets. Keeping catch basins clean also plays an important part in reducing drainage and flooding issues during heavy rainfall.

On May 6th, the BOT will place a 2.9mill Road Levy on the ballot for consideration which would generate \$2,688,300. Last year it cost the township approximately \$130,000 to pave 1 mile of road. If the cost remains the same, it will cost \$2,600,000 to pave 20 miles, at last year's price. This funding would afford us an opportunity to implement our proposed paving plan.

Parks Update: The Summerdale Park restroom is almost ready for public use. The concrete has been completed around the building and will be backfilled with topsoil. The plumber's final inspection will take place and once there is no chance of freezing temps, the restrooms will be open to the public. Just a reminder that last year via the ODNR Capital Budget grant, the drainage improvements and walking track at Meredith Park were completed and is a good source of exercise for our residents.

The Board applied for and was awarded a \$250,000 grant from ODNR Capital Budget for Phase 1 at Fasnacht Farm Park. This grant will be inclusive of a safe ingress and egress at the crest of Jackson Ave., parking spaces, tree removal, and a rough walking trail around the circumference of the park. Please visit [perrytwp.com](http://perrytwp.com) and our township FB pages for continued progress on Phase 1 of Fasnacht Farm Park improvements.

Lastly, we are currently accepting Community Garden applications for Spring gardening opportunities at Fasnacht Farm Park. Please contact Christina at [cwhittenberger@perrytwp.com](mailto:cwhittenberger@perrytwp.com) or call 330-833-2141 for gardening details.

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### Mark Johnson, Maintenance Specialist

Mark Johnson has been a road maintenance specialist at the Perry Township Road Department for 10 years. Mark is a team player, and always lends a helping hand to his co-workers. His job duties include going on snow and ice calls and any miscellaneous calls including during storms, STOP signs down, obstructions in the roads, etc., He also assists with the daily duties of repairing culverts, ditch work, mowing, sweeping, patching, repairing storm drains, etc. Mark is very dependable, has a great sense of humor, is always in a good mood, and gets along with everyone around him. Mark is a valuable asset to the Road Department.



Mark and his lovely wife Jenny have two daughters and a son. They enjoy spending time with their seven grandchildren. Mark loves to bowl and hunt in his spare time. Thank you, Mark, for all that you do!

## Perry Twp Clean-Up

Sat. April 26th  
8am-4pm



Exclusive to Perry Twp Residents only.  
Proof of drivers license or State ID

Perry Township Road Garage  
1500 Jackson Ave, SW  
Massillon, OH 44646

Employees will be available for unloading items.

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Batteries \* Appliances  
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Propane or Fuel Items \*  
Mattresses

The following items  
are acceptable:

- Drywall \* Carpeting \* Railroad  
Ties \* Insulation \* T.V.'s \* Grills  
Furniture \* Microwaves \* Grills  
Toys \* Treated wood \* DVDs \*  
CDs \* Radios \* Clothing \* Car  
Seats \* Christmas Trees \* Lamps  
\* Vacuum Cleaners \* Telephones  
\* Blenders \* Toasters \* Computers  
\* Laptops \* Monitors \* Tables \*  
Doors \* Screens



**"Put Your Trash Where It Goes,  
Not Where Water Flows"**



No one practice can solve all issues related to **stormwater runoff**. The important thing to remember is that every effort helps! Any practices you follow at home will have a positive impact on water quality and will benefit you and the environment.

**Only Rain Down the Drain!**

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**“Put Your Trash Where It Goes,  
Not Where It Flows”**

Stormwater runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As it flows, it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and deposit them into a storm sewer or waterbody. Anything that enters a storm sewer flows untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Only 1% of our water is usable, drinkable water. We can not afford to pollute and contaminate it.



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! Check with your local solid waste district to see what is recyclable in your particular area. Keep styrofoam, plastic bags, masks, wipes, and latex gloves out of the recycling bin– they are NOT recyclable. Reduce waste with reusable products such as washable masks, coffee cups, and biodegradable takeout containers.

Fluids in your car can be extremely toxic. Fix leaks so children and pets are not exposed to toxic puddles or toxic fluids that could be ingested. If you change your own oil, use a drip tray and take used oil, filters, and batteries to an automotive store for recycling– most will accept these items. Go to a commercial car wash where the water is treated before going down the drain, reducing potential pollutants. If you wash it yourself, do so on the lawn.



Sewers and storm drains are not the same thing. Waste water from sinks, showers, and washing machines will travel through the sanitary sewer system to a waste water treatment plant where it is extensively treated before being discharged. However, the water entering storm drains flows untreated to lakes, streams, and rivers. Please dispose of all trash in the proper place. **Do NOT litter!**



Properly dispose of leaves and grass clippings. Start a compost pile. Never use streams, creeks, or gutters to dispose of yard waste. Sweep the dirt and debris from your driveway and walkways back into the yard.

Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the toilet or trash. Hosing dirt and pet waste into storm drains sends it directly to the creeks and rivers.



Do NOT flush medications because they can get into our lakes, rivers, and streams. Prescription drugs can be disposed of at a local drug take back event or local prescription drug drop off box. - for a complete list of locations - <https://starkmhar.org/prevention-resources/drug-drop-off-locations/>



**Remember, Only Rain Down the Drain!**

Maintain your septic system. Have it pumped at least every three years. Repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems. Do not flush grease and personal hygiene products down the toilet or drain.

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

## Electric Aggregation Update

As the saying goes, "Don't shoot the messenger".

Electric aggregation is difficult to understand yet is vital in keeping household costs in check. In Perry Township, there is a further complication in that some households are served by Ohio Power, and some are served by Ohio Edison (First Energy). The purpose of this article is to explain, in an understandable way, what our residents can expect in the coming months.

A little background is in order. Perry voters approved the township aggregation program at the ballot box on May 4, 2010. Since then, with the invaluable guidance of Independent Energy Consultants (IEC) we have been able to provide stable and competitive rates. In the most simplified terms, since the inception of the program Ohio Edison customers have saved \$1,384,185 and Ohio Powers customers have saved \$2,580,020.

Because of a variety of factors, Ohio Edison rates varied from Ohio Power and the duration of the agreements were not synchronized. The Ohio Edison rate is currently higher (6.58 cents per kWh) than the Ohio Power rate (4.82 cents kWh). During the last renewal for Ohio Edison, our broker recommended a shorter term for the 6.58 rate. They advised against locking in a higher rate for a longer term and selected a term length

that allowed the two halves of the community to "sync-up" on the same length of contract.

The experts knew clearly and well in advance that the wholesale electric markets were drastically increasing in 2022 but moderated at the start of 2023. Stated simply, significant rate increases are coming.

Our consultant sent out a Requests for Proposal (RFP) bundling Perry's customer base with five other communities to maximize buying power. Despite this, the best offer available is about 9 cents kWh. Their recommendation, again, is to opt for a shorter term (12 months), and choose a fixed rate to avoid unexpected market fluctuations.

This increase is unavoidable and its affects are widespread throughout the country. Based on the recommendation of IEC, Perry Township intends to enter into a one-year supplier agreement with Constellation for all residential Perry Township customers. We believe it provides a valuable alternative for residents to consider.

Residential consumers should expect information from the new program supplier, Constellation, in the mail soon. This continues as an "opt-out" program and will be revisited next year hoping for more favorable market conditions. As in the past, any consumer is free to shop for an alternative supplier, choose a variable or fixed rate and decide the length of commitment, usually without an early termination penalty. To opt-out, follow the instructions in the mailer. The new rate will take effect with your May 2025 meter read and reflected on the bill arriving in June.



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

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

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# Perry Spirited Seniors

Perry Spirited Seniors is a newly formed, non-profit organization for Perry Township residents and property owners age 62 or older. If you have too much time on your hands, and are seeking a format of peer socialization outside the home, you may want to become a member. We have an organizational meeting once a month at Perry Township Police Station where you can submit an application to become a member. Membership requires participation and your presence at meetings at least four times a year. The goal of this group is to get senior citizens out of the house and finding purpose in life through peer fellowship, learning experiences, community volunteerism and fun activities. Let us boost your spirit! Have questions? Email [lindakc1126@gmail.com](mailto:lindakc1126@gmail.com).

## 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Location: Perry Police Dept., 622 Genoa Ave SW unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, April 2nd - 6:00 pm

Friday, May 9th - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 5th - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 3rd - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 7th - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 11th - 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 9th - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 6th - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 4th - 4:00 p.m.



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