



SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER



LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, INC. • 1301 MENTOR AVE., PAINESVILLE TWP., OHIO

Letter from the President

The 2025 fair was a very good and successful fair. The weather cooperated and we had good attendance for the week. A big thanks to all who came out to support the fair to make it a success. We had another record year with the 4-H livestock auction because of all the buyers, supporters and all the youth who worked so hard all year long on their projects. Thank You all.

This year you will see more improvements we are working on. We are continuing with updating the lighting to LED lights around the fairgrounds, buildings and infield areas. We are making improvements to the grandstands as well as adding new fencing in the infield for the pit area to improve safety and controlled use of the space.

Welcome to Natalie Pachinger to the Fair Board. Natalie is our newest Fair Board member. She is our Director At-Large West. Natalie is no

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Lake County Announces America250 Events and 'Ohio Goes to the Movies' Series

Lake County is proud to announce a full slate of America250. (AM250) commemorative events and the return of the popular "Ohio Goes to the Movies" film series, celebrating America's 250th anniversary through history, music, culture, and community engagement.

Throughout 2026, residents and visitors are invited to take part in concerts, commemorations, family-friendly celebrations, and special appearances honoring America's past while bringing Lake County together in meaningful ways.

See AMERICA250 on page 8

Letter from Fair Board Director Natalie Pachinger

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Natalie Pachinger and I am excited to serve as At-Large West Fair Board Director for the Lake County Fair. It is an honor to be part of a tradition that means so much to our community, and I look forward to working alongside each of you to continue building a successful and meaningful fair.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA) Conference, where fair professionals from across the state gathered to share ideas, learn from one another, and discuss best practices for operating and improving our fairs. The conference offered valuable educational sessions covering topics such as fair operations, safety and risk management,

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FAIR BOARD DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The Elections of Fair Board Directors will be held prior to the Annual Fair Board Meeting on Thursday, October 1.

The Elections will be held from 3-7 p.m.

There will be a Social Hour from 5:30 -7:30 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.,

followed by the Reorganizational Meeting and then the Regular Fair Board Meeting



****A driver's license must be presented to vote!****

Bob Dawson re-elected OFMA Treasurer

Bob Dawson from Perry Township and the Lake County Fair Board was recently re-elected Treasurer of the Ohio Fair Managers Association (OFMA) at the annual Ohio Fairs convention in Columbus. The OFMA represents all of Ohio's 94 county and independent fairs and the Ohio State Fair. The membership is made up of over 3,000 local fair directors from across Ohio. Dawson has served as the OFMA Treasurer for the past 22 consecutive years.

Bob Dawson has been affiliated with the Lake County Fair for the past forty-eight years. He served as Concession Manager for twenty-two years and as President for twelve consecutive years. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Advertising & Sponsorships,

Finance & Budget, and the Gates & Tickets committees.

Bob is a past recipient of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Outstanding Fair Supporter Award and holds a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Ohio Showmen's Association. Bob was inducted into the Lakeland Community College Alumni Hall of Fame (2010), the Perry High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame (2102) and the Ohio Fair Managers Association Hall of Fame (2013). He was inducted into the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame on Aug. 18, 2015.

Bob and his wife Dawn live in Perry Township where Bob was recently elected to serve his fourth term as a Township Trustee. Bob and his wife Dawn have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

Benefits of a Membership

Lake County Agricultural Society Memberships have many personal benefits. Memberships are \$30. This annual fee allows a Lake County resident to vote for Fair Board Directors. This membership also provides daily admission into the fair (more than a 50% savings). Aside from these personal perks, an LCAS membership benefits, as well as sustains, the Lake County Fair.

Money from membership sales go into the general funds account. This account is used for maintaining and improving buildings, arenas, and upkeeping of the fairgrounds as a whole. Because of the membership sales, we can provide 4-H with use of the grounds free of charge for weigh-ins, horse shows, meetings, camps, and various fundraising events. The purchase of a membership not only benefits the member, but also helps the youth and next generation of fair participants. Consider purchasing a membership for the 2026 season to help maintain and grow our program, as well as maintain success. Memberships can be purchased at the fair office.



2025-2026 FAIR BOARD DIRECTORS

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Joe Slansky | President..... | Concord |
| Cindy Woodman | Vice-President | Willoughby |
| Kenna Covert..... | Director | Painesville |
| Wade Crofoot | Director | Perry |
| Bob Dawson | Director | At-Large East |
| Todd Demshar | Director | At-Large Central |
| Jim Farrell..... | Director | Mentor |
| Ken Hamilton | Director | Mentor |
| Jeremy Hejduk..... | Director | Madison |
| Steve Ohmes..... | Director | Leroy |
| Natalie Pachinger | Director | At-Large West |
| Richard Parker..... | Director | Willoughby |
| Mike Peplowski..... | Director | Madison |
| Rob Sidley | Director | Painesville |
| James Slansky | Director | Concord |
| Sam Taylor..... | Director | Perry |
| Rich VanPelt..... | Director | Leroy |
| Dave Wilcox..... | Director | Kirtland |
| Dave Wilcox Jr..... | Director | Kirtland |



SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT Michelle Byram

Winters in Ohio sure don't seem to get any easier. It has been snowing on and off since the end of November and it doesn't feel like there is an end in sight. Thoughts of summer and the fair are a great way to think of warmer weather.

We just returned from the OFMA convention, and the fair ideas were in full swing. The 2026 fair will be July 28 - Aug. 2. It will be here before we know it! Be sure to keep an eye out

for the premium book which will be available around the beginning of June.

There are so many different departments and categories to put entries in. Did you know that with the purchase of a membership or exhibitor pass, you can put in as many entries as you would like? Entries can also be made online from the comfort of your home. We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

*Michelle Byram
Secretary/Treasurer*

A NOTE FROM LADIES AUXILIARY

2026-who would have thought? Time just seems to fly by. Time to plan for the fair and it seems like we just finished our 2025 fair. We all know it is a continual process in planning the events, 4-H projects, horse shows and all the other events that make up fair. We are so fortunate to have such a great hardworking Fair Board, 4-H Leaders, Ladies Auxiliary and wonderful friends and volunteers who make it possible. Ladies Auxiliary was very busy this year with our reverse raffle, clam bake, Thanksgiving and Christmas projects, Queen's Tea, feeding our directors during the fair and other tasks.

We welcome two new members: Jessica Slansky and Dana Crofoot to our group.

All of this would not be possible without the support of the directors, staff and volunteers. Thank you to the sheriff's department, fire department, the groups who work gates, parking, boy scouts, grandstands and all volunteers who work so hard.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

*Judy Parker, President
Fran Hejduk, Vice-President
Rachel Slansky, Secretary
Michelle Slansky, Treasurer*



2026 TICKET PRICES

GENERAL ADMISSION \$12
MEMBERSHIP TICKET \$30
EXHIBITOR PASS \$30
SEASON PASS \$35

PIT PASS \$25
PREFERRED PARKING \$75
CAMPING \$200



CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

The Lake County Fairgrounds accepts payment by VISA, MasterCard and Discover for any amounts due to the Fair including exhibitor and membership tickets, entry fees, livestock auction sales and stall and building rentals. Payments can be made in person at the Office. To pay by phone, just call 440-354-3339.



Fair Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Sponsorships are the life blood of small fairs and festivals, and the Lake County Fair is no exception. Sponsorships help to cover the costs of the fair and keep admission and grandstand prices to a minimum.

The revenues from some sponsorship are dedicated specifically for permanent

improvements on the fairgrounds.

The Lake County Fair has a wide array of sponsorship opportunities available, and all have some form of benefit to the purchaser in exchange for their financial support.

For more information on available sponsorship, call the fair office at 440-354-3339.

2026 Fair Parade

The Lake County Fair Parade will be on Tuesday, July 28 stepping off at 6 p.m. The Grand Marshal for the parade will be Edy Solet, the 2026 OFMA Fair Queen from Erie County. Lineup will start at 5 p.m. at the First Church of Christ and Zion Lutheran Church located on Mentor Ave. across from Lake Erie College.

To help with the line-up, if your group has multiple vehicles or a group of participants, please arrive at the same time to ensure you will be lined up together in the parade. As in the past, there is no room for parking, so there is no place to leave your vehicles at the First Church of Christ or Zion Lutheran location.

If you are planning on participating in the 2026 Fair Parade, you must fill out an entry form and turn it in to the fair office by July 24. The forms are available at the fair office or online at www.lakecountyfair.org.

I want to thank all the local law enforcement agencies and public officials for their help and



cooperation. We also want to thank The First Church of Christ and the Zion Lutheran Church again for allowing us to use their locations for our parade line up, as well as their hospitality. We would like to also thank Johnson Funeral Home and Lake Erie College for their support.

Thanks to everyone who participates and all the spectators who line up along the route to watch the parade. All of you make it a great start to the Lake County Fair. For any questions, you can contact the fair office at 440-354-3339 or Joe Slansky at 440-537-3517.

2026 LAKE COUNTY FAIR OFFICE HOURS

| | | | |
|--|------------------|--|-------------------|
| Tuesday, June 30 thru Thursday, July 2..... | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Saturday, July 25 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Monday, July 6 thru Friday, July 10 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Sunday, July 26..... | 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. |
| Monday, July 13 thru Friday, July 17 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Monday, July 27 | 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. |
| Monday, July 20 thru Tuesday, July 21..... | 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Tuesday, July 28 thru Sunday, Aug. 2 | 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. |
| Wednesday, July 22 thru Friday, July 24..... | 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. | | |

See you at the Fair!

Don't Miss a Minute of This Year's Fair!



Mike Peplowski

Lake County Fair Hall of Fame Inductee

Mike Peplowski was elected to the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame in 2025 by the Fair Board. He was inducted on July 22, the opening night of the 2025 Fair.

2025 HALL of FAME Inductees

Mike has played an integral role to the Lake County Fair and Fairgrounds for over 20 years as a Fair Board Director representing Madison. Mike may be best known for his role as the Gates and Tickets Supervisor, a position he has held for many years. To those in the know, this position and its responsibilities are paramount to the success of each fair. In this role, Mike is the “go to guy” for hundreds of volunteers that staff the gates, sell tickets and handle thousands of dollars over the course of the six-day fair.

including: Budget and Finance, Concessions, Entertainment, Grounds, Long Range Planning, Parking-Transportation, Safety-First aid, Rentals, Technology and others.

In addition to his role as Gates and Tickets Supervisor, Mike has been a very active and dedicated fair board member. Over more than two decades, he has served on many committees

Mike is a strong contributor to any committee he is assigned to and agrees to serve on. He is considered a deep thinker and his professional career background shows through in everything he does. He is an integral part of the Finance and Budget Committee and provides strong leadership to the budgeting process each year where he is looked to, to use his technology expertise.

For these reasons and more we welcome and congratulate Mike on this recognition.

PACHINGER

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marketing and sponsorships, youth engagement, and adapting to the evolving needs of our communities.

One of the biggest takeaways from the conference was the importance of collaboration and innovation. It was encouraging to hear how other fairs are finding creative solutions to common chal-

lenges and discovering new ways to enhance the fair experience for exhibitors, vendors, volunteers, and fairgoers alike.

I’m excited to bring some of these ideas back and explore how they might benefit our fair.

I appreciate the support of the Fair Board and look forward to

working together to make Lake County Fair a continued success. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime—I value your input and am eager to learn from your experience.

Thank you for the warm welcome, and I’m excited for the year ahead.

Natalie

LETTER

From page 1

stranger to fair. She participated in 4-H and has been involved in the fair over the years. She will be a great addition and asset to the Fair Board.

Our success in completing projects

to have a great county fair would not be possible without all the support from the Lake County Commissioners, Lake County OSU Ext., sponsors, vendors and exhibitors, as well as the Lake County Engineers,

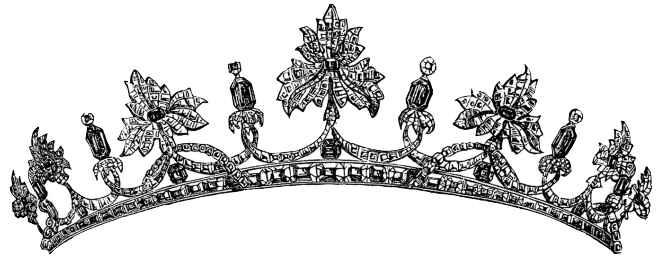
township and city service depts, Fair Board members, employees, and all the 4-H families.

Thank You All for all of your support.

Joe Slansky



2025 Lake County Fair Queen Leigh-Ann Milo



Miss Leigh-Ann Milo was crowned the 2025 Lake County Fair Queen on July 13 at the fourteenth Queen's Reception Tea held at the Youth & Community Center on the Lake County Fairgrounds.

Leigh-Ann lives in Painesville, is 17 years old and a 2025 graduate of Riverside High School. Leigh-Ann was a member of the Riverside Regiment,

Pep Band, Section Leader and a Squad Leader for 2 years. Leigh-Ann received the Principals Honor Roll, Riverside High School Senior Band Award and received perfect attendance for Marching Band.

Leigh-Ann is a member of Legacy Livestock 4-H club. Leigh-Ann's activities in 4-H include being the President of Legacy Livestock and also Jr. Market Livestock. Leigh-Ann was part of the Lake County Fair Queen's Court in 2024.



Community activities that Leigh-Ann has been involved with are being a camp counselor at Camp Whitewood volunteering at WSL Farm.

Congratulations and best of luck to Leigh-Ann on her accomplishments and for being crowned the 2025 Lake County Fair Queen!

Don't Miss a Minute of This Year's Fair!



Board Executive Leadership Changes

After several years as Fair Board President, Wade Crofoot chose not to run for another term at this year's annual reorganizational meeting held on October 2, 2025. Crofoot served on the Fair Board since 2002 and as President since 2017. During his tenure as President, Wade Crofoot led the society and the fairgrounds to unprecedented growth including construction of the new Youth and Community Center, the asphalt resurfacing of the entire fairgrounds, new State of the Art roofs on all the flat roofed buildings on the grounds and the construction of new infrastructure and campgrounds to name a few. Wade stepped away from the presidency to spend more time with his family. He will continue to serve on the Fair Board representing Perry Township. We greatly appreciate the leadership he provided our cause over his time as President and wish him health and happiness going forward.

Joe Slansky was unanimously elected to serve as Board President for the coming year. Joe has been a dedicated director on the board for twenty-five years representing Concord Township. He has served as Board Vice-President for the past fifteen (15) years. His leadership assignments have included chairing the Entertainment, Grounds, Parade and Flower Committees. He has also been a member of the Finance,

Gates, Jr. Fair and Rental committees over his tenure. Joe has established himself as the fair's "go-to" guy in many ways and is someone who can chair an efficient and effective meeting or be counted on to lead a ditch digging project. He is a member of the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame and a past recipient of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Outstanding Fair Supporter Award. We look forward to benefiting from Joe's leadership in the coming years.

Cindy Woodman has been elected Fair Board Vice-President. Cindy has given service to the Lake County Fair for over thirty (30) years. She has been an innovator and an enabler on the board during her service and is known as a hardworking and out of the box thinker that has helped the fair to keep going and growing for over three (3) decades. Cindy's contributions to the Lake County Fair and Fairgrounds have been recognized in many ways. She is a member of the Lake County Fair Hall of Fame, The Ohio Fair Managers Association Hall of Fame, as the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Outstanding Fair Supporter and as the Greater Ohio Showman's Association Concession Manager of the Year. We congratulate Cindy on her election and look forward to her continuing her leadership contributions on the board in the years to come.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING RENTAL

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HOLD YOUR SPECIAL EVENT? WHETHER IT BE A FAMILY GATHERING, SHOWER, RECEPTION, FUNDRAISER, ETC: THIS BUILDING IS JUST WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR!

THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED ON THE LAKE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, IS THE PLACE TO CHECK OUT! PLEASE CONTACT THE FAIR OFFICE OR OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.LAKECOUNTYFAIR.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.



FAIR PREMIUMS

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU RECEIVE PREMIUMS AT THE FAIR, THEY CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE FAIR OFFICE AFTER 9 P.M. THE LAST DAY OF FAIR. NO PREMIUMS WILL BE MAILED OUT. CHECKS WILL BE VOIDED AND CONSIDERED A DONATION TO THE LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, INC. AFTER 90 DAYS FROM ISSUE DATE.

2026-2027 WINTER STORAGE PROGRAM

Store your summer vehicles out of the elements! Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis so call the Fair Office at

440-354-3339 for an application starting in August.

We currently have a waiting list for boats and campers.



- > Held on Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m.
- > Only Oct. 24, Oct. 31 or Nov. 7
- > \$17 per foot end-to-end
- > Unheated buildings with concrete floors
- > Boats, RVs, cars, pick-up trucks, campers and motorcycles
- > Take out will be on April 24, 2027

ARTHUR F. WARREN MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The Lake County Fairboard is pleased to announce the availability of a \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship. In its twenty-sixth year, it is open to any graduating high school senior residing in Lake County. The senior must be a member of a Lake County 4-H organization or a member of the Lake County Junior Fair Board. The applicant must also prove admission to an institution of higher learning as a full-time student.

The application includes an essay, a high school reference and a community reference.

The deadline is April 1, 2026. The scholarship winner will be announced on April 9. Upon receipt of an official grade transcript showing a 2.5 or above grade point average, the award will then be payable to the student. The scholarship winner must also ride in this year's Lake County Fair parade on Tuesday, July 28.

Applications are available through the Fair office at 440-354-3339 or on our website www.lakecountyfair.org.

AMERICA250

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America250 Events

- April 25 – Madhatters Canoe & Kayak Race commemorating the Battles of Lexington & Concord and Paul Revere & the Riders' Midnight Ride, Hidden Valley Park, Madison
- May 21 – Heritage Tree Planting, Veterans' Park, Painesville
- June 12 – America250/DAR table at the Lake County Captains game, with a special appearance by George Washington
- June 14 – America250 County Picnic, Lake County Historical Society
- June 15 – Smith Cemetery Reopening Celebration, Willoughby Hills, 3 p.m.
- June 20 – Rededication of Revolutionary War Patriot's Marker, Veterans' Park, Painesville
- By July 4 – Unveiling of a 7-foot statue of President James A. Garfield, Mentor Civic Center



- July 4 – America250 Celebration at Lake County Captains Stadium featuring a patriot-themed baseball game, color

guards, fireworks, centenarians, and more

- July 28 – Lake County Fair Parade
- August 1 – America250 Day at the Lake County Fair, featuring a special America250 bobblehead promotion (limited quantities available)

Ohio Goes to the Movies

- March 11 – White Boy Rick, Regal Willoughby Commons
- April 8 – Superman, Atlas Cinemas Great Lakes Stadium
- July 7 – Air Force One, Atlas Cinemas Diamond Center

"These events are an incredible opportunity to honor our nation's history while bringing our community together in fun, educational, and memorable ways," said Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Chair of the Lake County America250 Committee. "I am both excited and deeply grateful to celebrate America250 through music, history, film, and community traditions that reflect our shared pride and patriotism."

Additional details, times, and updates for each event will be announced throughout the year. Residents are encouraged to follow America250 communications (Facebook) for the latest information.

SCHOOL BUILDING

We are excited for the local students to showcase this year's projects at the Lake County Fair! The school and education building is open to all local schools and is an excellent way to display not only your students' efforts from this year, but also to bring your individual school's spirit. This year we will be awarding the top three displays with cash prizes to your organization.

We have ample space for entire schools, or individual students to display their school projects. These can range from art projects, science projects/experiments, musical themed displays, or any school project that you wish to display to the public during the week of the Fair.

So... teachers, music and art program directors, student government and even athletic program directors, get your students ready to show off their efforts! We look forward to seeing the creativity you bring.

All entries will be required to complete a no-cost entry form, which can be obtained at the Fair office or soon from our website.



Entry Forms will be due by:

Friday, July 24 no later than 5 p.m.

Set up times will be available:

Saturday, July 25 from noon-3 p.m.

Sunday, July 26 from noon- 5 p.m.

Monday, July 27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Any questions can be directed to the fair office.



Todd Demshar

4-H WRISTBAND POLICY

A list of active 4-H Advisors and 4-H Members will be submitted to the fair office.

One wristband will be issued to each person on this list.

Wristbands will be available the weekend prior to the fair at the main office of the fairgrounds located at 1301 Mentor Avenue during their office hours.

Everyone will be required to come to the fair office and sign for his or her own wristband. You cannot send anyone to get your wristband for you. The wristband will be put on your wrist at the office. This will be done with all wristbands. No wristbands will be issued without being put on the individual.

If, for any reason, the wristband needs to be removed, for example: sports, school activities, etc, a replacement wristband will be issued only when the removed wristband is brought back and exchanged for a replacement wristband at the fair office. The new wristband will again be placed on the individual's wrist at the office. No replacement wristband will be issued unless the old wristband is brought back in.

No taped or partially covered wristbands will be honored at the gate.

Do not lose your wristband. They cannot be replaced in the event of loss or theft.











4-H LIVESTOCK AUCTION

The 2026 Lake County 4-H Livestock Auction will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Lake County Fairgrounds Livestock Arena.

Buyer registration will begin at 11 a.m. at the arena and will remain open throughout the auction. An ID is required to obtain a bidding number. The small animal auction will start at noon (rabbits, chickens, ducks and turkeys). At the conclusion of the small animal auction, we will break until 4 p.m. The large animal auction will begin at 4 p.m. (goats, beef, lambs and hogs). At the conclusion of the sale, winning buyers must present their bidding number at the sales table where paperwork will be completed. The amount owed is due at that time in the form of cash, check or credit card. Animals will be shipped to the processor of the buyer's choice.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Auction or would like further information, please contact the Lake County Extension office at 440-853-2625.

2025 SALES

| | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 24 |  | 35 |  |
| 0 |  | 31 |  |
| 70 |  | 5 |  |
| 31 |  | 74 |  |

\$424,870.76 gross sales

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!
2026 Auction: Saturday, Aug. 1



2026 FAIR PARKING



Preferred Parking

The Lake County Agricultural Society will again offer preferred parking at the Fair. This parking area will be located just inside the main gate and run along the fence line on Route 20. Additional spots will be available across from some of these spots. A parking pass can be purchased for \$75 at the Fair office. The vehicle will be allowed access to this lot 24 hours a day for all six days of the Fair. This does not include fair entrance fee for people in the vehicle. Each person in the vehicle must have a wristband, membership pass or daily ticket for fair entrance. We have had some issues in the past with vehicles being parked in the wrong location. When this occurs contact the office and we will get it addressed. DO NOT park in someone else's spot. These parking spaces will be sold on a first-come basis. The number of available spaces is limited. We will attempt to accommodate all requests for specific locations but cannot guarantee them. If you are interested in purchasing a parking pass, they are currently available for purchase at the office during normal business hours. If you have any questions, call the office at 440-354-3339. Once the designated spots are sold, you can add your name to the waiting list.

The parking spaces will be large enough to accommodate a car or pick-up truck. Trailers and oversized stock or box trucks are prohibited.

General Parking

General parking at the fair is still free. All parking lots are located at the south and southwest areas of the fairgrounds and in the infield of the racetrack at certain times and dates. Follow the parking signs and flaggers. The handicap parking was enlarged last year and is located at the northwest corner of the fairgrounds. A small number of handicapped parking spaces will be available this year along Fairgrounds Road near the Draft Horse gate. The vehicle must have a handicap placard to park there. The parking lot at the Fair office is for fair business only and is limited to 15-minute parking.

Livestock/horse exhibitors are allowed to bring supplies into the fairgrounds through the southeast (draft horse) gate prior to 9 a.m. All vehicles must be removed from around the barns by 9 a.m. each day. Because of the draft horse hitch classes, no vehicles will be allowed by the barns on Friday and Saturday of the fair after 8 a.m. Likewise, no vehicles will be allowed through the draft horse gate on Friday and Saturday of the fair after 8 a.m.

Truck and Trailer parking will be limited to the grassy area East of Barn 24 and some spots along Fairdale Road. A \$25 parking fee will be required.

2026 Campers

Campers enjoyed our renovated camper area last year, for the first time, which includes 52 camper spots with electric service and water provided, with 28 of these sites being paved. Although no waste or grey water drains are available, there is a waste dump station just west of the camping grounds, behind barn 28, that can be used.

The fee for camping at the Lake County Fair this year will be \$200. A membership to The Lake County Agricultural Society, season pass or an exhibitor pass is also required. Priority will be given to past camper renters. Reservations, with payment, will open for last year's renters on May 20 for two weeks for the same spots as last year. During the second week (May 27) repeat campers can change their spot to an open location. On June 3 any remaining sites, not reserved and paid for, will be available to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Vehicle parking is not guaranteed at the camp site. If your vehicle can fit in front of your camper without protruding into the driveway, it can be parked there.

No golf carts, side by sides, or other such type of motorized vehicles are permitted on the fairgrounds/campgrounds during fair. Primitive camping is no longer available.

VEHICLE PASSES

All 4-H families enrolled with livestock or saddle horse and taking a project that will be stabled in the front barns can be issued a vehicle pass. This pass will grant you access to the barn area with your vehicle before 9 a.m. Any drop-offs of equipment, feed, bedding, etc. should be done at this time. All passengers, including the driver of the vehicle, must have a wristband or ticket to enter. All vehicles must be moved back to the general parking before 9 a.m. These passes can be picked up with wristbands in the fair office. Many of our shows and activities begin in the morning and by keeping the barn and show areas free of traffic, we will be creating a safer environment for our youth and exhibitors to work and show in. Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you at the fair!



FARM & GARDEN/ HORTICULTURE-FRUITS/ DOMESTIC CULINARY

Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you, we are beyond the extreme cold and snowy winter we experienced this year and are preparing to lay out this year's garden. Last year's fair had a great display of fruits and vegetables and a great competition for the Art Warren Master Gardener Award won by Daniel Jekutis. The categories for this year's competition are:

- Book 2, Class 6 Green round beans
 - Book 2, Class 12 Early girl tomatoes
 - Book 8, Class 3 Slicing cucumbers
 - Book 12, Class 1 Bell peppers
 - Book 14, Class 19 Longest zucchini
 - Book 17, Class 1 Red beets
 - Book 18, Class 7 Yellow globe onions
- Plant early and good luck!

I am so proud of the way our local bakers work hard to supply us with a great display of baked goods yearly that supports our fair with goods that are donated to the baked goods auction. This auction has grown in a short period of time from a small event held outside of our building to a special evening held at the Entertainment Tent with a capacity crowd. There are so many people to thank for this success from the bakers supplying the goods to the auctioneers that donate their time and last to the people that attend every year and make this happen. Last year was another record-breaking year for the fifth year in a row. These proceeds provide for upgrades on our fairgrounds and for that we are very grateful.

Last year's winner of our Supreme Baker Award went to Pat Wilson and we would like to thank her for contributing every year.

We had a nice display of fine home-grown wines for competition with Howard Pfeiler winning the Best of Show. Great job!

Lake County Fair Continues to be recognized in Ohio's Advertising Excellence Contest!

In recent independent judging for 2025, The Lake County Fair received a number of awards in the Small Fairs division. The awards included 1st place in Newspaper Ad, Outdoor Billboards and Social Media categories. 2nd place recognitions included Fair Newsletter and Printed Promotional Piece. The Lake County Fair has been recognized each year since the inception of this program.

The Communication Awards were received at the Annual OFMA Convention held recently in Columbus, Ohio in front of a huge crowd. This year's awards were sponsored by Nutrien Ag Solutions and were designed to encourage and recognize advertising excellence supporting fairs and the fairs industry.

The 2025 Advertising Committee included Chairman Bob Dawson along with directors Jeremy Hejduk and Jerry Merhar. Courtney Smith, principle of the firm GET INTERESTED! provided the professional input for the Social Media Campaign. The Fair Newsletter was the responsibility of the Publications Committee led by Michelle Byram.

LAKE COUNTY FAIR PATRONS

We would like to invite you to become a Patron of the 2026 Lake County Fair. Your generous support will help keep the great tradition of Ohio's fairs going in Lake County.

Contribution forms are available through the office at 440-354-3339.

- > Patron's name will be listed in the 2026 Fair Premium Book
- > Now accepting patron donations from individuals
- > Any size donations are accepted
- > Cash, checks or credit cards accepted



LAKE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIPS

- > Now on sale through September 17, 2026
- > Must be a Lake County resident
- > Must be 18 years of age or older
- > Cost: \$30
- > Includes daily Fair admission
- > Does not include rides
- > Permits holder to vote in the annual Board of Directors election which will be held prior to the Oct. 1, 2026 Annual Fair Board Meeting between 3-7 p.m.
- > PHOTO ID MUST BE PRESENTED TO PURCHASE A MEMBERSHIP AND TO VOTE!

TRACTOR DISPLAY AT THE LAKE COUNTY FAIR



The Tractor Display is held in the Commercial Building during the Lake County Fair.

If you would like to display a tractor of yours, you can contact the fair office. We will be happy to pass along your information to the group that handles the display.



Want to help
plan for the
upcoming fair?

Do you have a
creative mind?

Want to become
a leader?

Interested in
running the
Milkshake Booth?

Become a
member today
and join the FUN!

IF INTERESTED PLEASE
CONTACT EITHER:

JOE SLANSKY
440-537-3517

JOHN SLANSKY
440-251-0066

LAKE COUNTY JR. FAIR BOARD

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

The purpose of Jr. Fair Board is to get the youth of Lake County involved in the activities during the Lake County Fair and the Lake County Agricultural Society.

Activities and responsibilities include Kids Day, Milkshake Booth, Coloring, Prince and Princess Contests and much more!

The Lake County Jr. Fair Board is comprised of youth ages 12 and up, elected officers and advisors. Members do not need to be involved in 4-H to participate. We welcome anyone who has an interest in getting involved and are willing to dedicate their time to the Lake County Fair.

We meet the fourth Thursday of every month at the Lake County Fair Office at 7 p.m.

See BOARD on page 13



The purpose of Jr. Fair Board is to give our community youth a place to grow, develop and truly learn what it takes to plan, organize and successfully operate a Jr. Fair, as well as many other activities during the Lake County Fair. This gives youth the ability to work alongside Senior Fair Board, staff of the Lake County Agricultural Society and 4-H Volunteer Advisors.

The Lake County Jr. Fair Board is comprised of youth ages 12 and up, elected officers and various advisors, as well as Senior Fair Board Directors. **Do I need to be in 4-H to become a member, or have livestock experience?** No, our members can be from various organizations, such as the boy/girl scouts, 4-H members, or any community youth interested in volunteering, all while building a strong resume for the future. We welcome anyone who has an interest in getting involved and is willing to dedicate their time to the Lake County Fair.

Activities and responsibilities include planning and running Jr. Fair Livestock and Saddlehorse shows, Kids Day Events, operating the Milkshake Booth, the Prince and Princess Contests and so much more!

If you are interested in more information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact the fair office. Todd Demshar, Jim Slansky, or Dave Wilcox Jr. will be glad to answer any of your questions. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to a great opportunity to get involved.



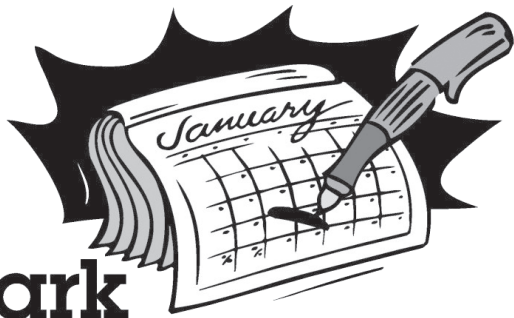
INTERESTED IN JOINING OR SIMPLY WANT TO KNOW MORE? CALL THE FAIR OFFICE AT 440-354-3339



Jr. Fair Board Scholarship

The Lake County Jr. Fair Board is proud to offer the Inaugural Jr. Fair Leadership Scholarship. The applications will open in May and available on our website, or at the fair office. The winner will be announced the week of the fair and displayed for all to see at milkshake booth





Mark Your Calendar!

2026 FAIRGROUNDS CALENDAR



- Jan. 8 Fair Board Meeting, Fair Office, 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 5 Fair Board Meeting, Fair Office, 7:30 p.m.
- March 5 Fair Board Meeting, Fair Office, 7:30 p.m.
- April 2 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
- April 18 Winter Storage Take-out (By Appointment)
- May 7 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
- May 16 THE GREAT GARAGE SALE, Sponsored by the Lake County Fair Board and the News Herald 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., RAIN OR SHINE
- May 22-25 Leisuretime Warehouse Hot Tub Sale
- May 30 Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 4 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office. 7:30 p.m.
- June 6 Breaking the Stigma Classic Car Show
- June 26-28 Ohio Viking Festival
- July 2 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
- July 9 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
- July 12 Johnnycake Jog
- July 16 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.

- *** JULY 28-Aug. 2 - THE 171st LAKE COUNTY FAIR*****
- Aug. 6 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sept. 3 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sept. 12 Hazardous Waste Collection, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Sept. 19 THE GREAT GARAGE SALE, Sponsored by the Lake County Fair Board and the News Herald 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., RAIN OR SHINE
 - Sept. 26 NAMI Walk
 - Oct. 1 Fair Board Director Elections, Youth/Community Center, 3 to 7 p.m.
 - Oct. 1 Fair Board Meeting, Youth/Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
 - Oct. 24 Winter Vehicle & Boat Storage
 - Oct. 31 Winter Vehicle & Boat Storage
 - Nov. 5 Fair Board Meeting, Fair Office, 7:30 p.m.
 - Nov. 7 Winter Vehicle & Boat Storage
 - Dec. 3 Fair Board Meeting, Fair office, 7:30 p.m.

COME TO THE 171ST LAKE COUNTY FAIR JULY 28 TO AUG. 2



2026 GREAT GARAGE SALE



The Lake County Fairgrounds Great Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be another sale in the Fall on Sept. 19. This sale is co-sponsored by the Lake County Fair Board and The News-Herald.

Pre-registration is required for a vendor space. Outside spaces cost \$25 per space and measure 20 x 30. Inside spaces are approximately 10 x 30 feet and are available for \$30 per space. Spots are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note we do not provide tables or chairs, and no electricity is available. No food or beverage sales are permitted.

The Great Garage Sale is held regardless of the weather. Concessions are on ground with delicious snacks, beverages and sandwiches. As always, parking is free!

Now is the time to start sorting through your belongings to decide what you would like to try to sell! Applications are available on our website at www.lakecountyfair.org or through the Fair office at 440-354-3339 starting April 7. Once you receive the form, fill it out and send it back ASAP because the spaces sell out quickly.

If you are in the market for shopping instead of selling, we have over 125 vendors selling everything imaginable! Bring the family to the Fairgrounds on May 16 and see what treasures you can go home with.

2026 HAZARD WASTE COLLECTIONS



The Lake County Fairgrounds will hold the following special collections on Saturdays sponsored by the Lake County Solid Waste Management District.

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection – May 30 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Sept. 12 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information on what items are acceptable, contact the Lake County Solid Waste District at 440-350-2644 or the Ohio State University Extension at 440-853-2625.

You may also visit their website: lakecountyohio.gov (look under County Departments, Utility Department and special collections information).

Please check their website, Facebook, Instagram, your local paper or call 440-350-2644 for other collection dates.

LAKE COUNTY FAIR FOUNDATION

Please consider becoming a partner in promoting and preserving the Lake County Fair and our agricultural heritage.

Your donations to the foundation:

- > Are tax-deductible
- > Promote the agriculture industry
- > Preserve our agricultural heritage
- > Improve and maintain 79 acres of property and over 50 buildings
- > Support special projects and needs beyond the Fair's operating budget
- > Support Lake County's youth and teach them about positive qualities and a strong work ethic
- > Give youth and adults a forum to display the results of their labors with pride
- > Provide a showcase where over 100,000 people can annually come together in wholesome, family fun
- > Educate an increasing suburban population about the values of agriculture, horticulture, pomology and the mechanics of household arts and their importance to our county, state and nation
- > The foundation graciously accepts donations from estates.

Donations can be made by contacting the Fair Office at 440-354-3339.



2026 Flower Show

Come be a part of the 2026 Lake County Fair flower display at this year's fair. The Theme for this year's Fair is, "Americas 250th Birthday." There will be two flower shows again this year for participants to enter.

The first show will go from Tuesday, July 28 through Thursday, July 30, and first entries can be placed Monday, July 27 from 5 to 9 p.m. Completed paperwork for entries must be filed at the fair office by 8 p.m. that same day. Judging for the first show will be Tuesday morning, July 28 at 9 a.m. The first show entries that need to be removed can be picked up Thursday, July 30 between 6 and 8 p.m.

The second show will be Friday, July 31 through Sunday, Aug. 2. Set up for the second show will be Thursday, July 30 from 6-9 p.m. with all entry's paperwork being filed in the fair office by 8 p.m. that day. Judging for the second show will be Friday morning, July 31 at 9 a.m. All entries can be removed on Sunday, Aug. 2 after 9 p.m.

We have a wide variety of classes and age groups for all to enter to participate in this year's show, with skill

levels from beginner to the more experienced gardeners. I would like to encourage our local youth to check out all the different classes they can enter to participate in and potentially win a little cash.

Please visit the Fair website or pick up a fair premium book from the fair office to get info on the many different Books and Classes you can enter. We would encourage anyone who is interested in showing off their gardening skills to bring their flowers and enter the flower show. Come take part in this year's 2026 flower shows. Thanks to everyone who has been a part of the flower show display in the past and supported our Fair. If you have any questions, please call the fair office at 440-354-3339 or contact Joe Slansky at 440-537-3517.



2026 ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment committee is looking forward to this year's Lake County Fair. **Harness racing** will return at the main grandstands on **Tuesday, July 28** in the afternoon. Later in the day our **annual fair parade** will step-off at 6 p.m. from the First Church of Christ and Zion Lutheran on route 20. The Grand Marshal will be Edy Solet, the 2026 OFMA Queen. The parade will head west on route 20, turning south on Fairgrounds Rd. and finish in front of the main grandstand.

The Demolition Derby, put on by Derby Dog Promotions will be returning on Tuesday night following the parade. New for this year, **Wednesday, July 29** will feature the truck and tractor pulls put on by CS Pulling Promotions. The big semis will be back, as well as a new class, the Hot Rod V8 Tractors. You won't want to miss it.

Thursday, July 30 we will have **motocross racing** put on by Fair-Cross Promotions LTD. Come watch all the competitive riders from around the area compete in different classes and age groups.

KOI Drag Racing will be on **Friday, July 31**. Come and see the fast side-by-side racing action as they race against each other and the clock.

On **Saturday evening** at the main grandstand, **Monster Trucks** return. Five nationally known monster trucks competing in different competitions from free style to racing. In addition to the Monster Trucks, we will also feature Quad Wars. It will be an exciting show!

Sunday, Aug. 2 is our **Latino Day**, featuring music and Latino foods. Sunday evening is our big Demolition Derby, put on by Derby Dog Productions. Be sure to come out to see all the exciting, hard-hitting action.

In addition to all the grandstand entertainment, there are many other fun things to see and do at the fair. New for this year is the **Central K-9 Performance Dogs**. A dog team made up of dogs of all sizes and breeds each having their own act to perform, some will even be jumping into a pool of water. They will be doing multiple shows every day throughout the week and it is free family fun entertainment. **Jungle Terry**, a crowd favorite, will be back to entertain with multiple shows.

The Entertainment tent will be featuring a wide variety of music and local talent all week long as well. The **"Pawn Band"** will be back to perform Classic Rock and Party songs. New for this year will be the band **"Miles Beyond."**

Don't forget to walk through all the buildings to see all the displays from fine arts, flowers, and more. There is also the **Merchant building**, in which you will see a variety of businesses selling their products or services. The **Commercial building** will showcase antique tractors and farm equipment displays. Be sure to check out all the **4-H animals and projects** that our youth have worked hard on all year.

We are excited about this year's 2026 Lake County Fair. There is a lot to see and do. So be sure to visit the website at www.lakecountyfair.org and watch for the schedule of event for all the fun activities at this year's 2026 Lake County Fair.



You can be a Fair Sponsor for only \$125!

Have you been to the fair when it seems like those dam golf carts go anywhere and everywhere? Well they do. Again this year, you can use that to your advantage by showing your support for the Lake County Fair when you sponsor one of those golf carts.

For the price of only \$125 you can have a sign displaying your name, the name of a company or an organization on the front of a fair golf cart. The black on white signs will be 5" high by 42" wide. Each fair director and official is being asked to secure a sponsor for the cart assigned to them.

So, don't delay... sponsor a cart and show your fair spirit.

Signs can be reserved with any director or from the Fair Office.



Lake County

Job and Family Services

Proud Sponsor of the 2026 Lake County Fair

KEEPING KIDS SAFE



Lake County Job and Family Services
Child Abuse Hotline
440-350-4000 or 440-918-4000
Press #1.





Special Thanks to all of our 2025 Sponsors

PRESENTING
SPONSOR



Ken Ganley
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP
RAM MENTOR

SUPPORTING SPONSOR



LAKETRAN

Lake County
Commissioners

Keeping Kids Safe!



Richard &
Judy Parker



Richard K.
Greaves, CPA

MEDIA ONE



IT HAPPENS. WE CAN FIX IT.



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Lake County
Farm Bureau





Lake County Agricultural Society, Inc.
1301 Mentor Avenue
Painesville Twp., Ohio 44077
440-354-3339

**BULK RATE
PAID
Permit No. 3
Jefferson, Ohio
44047**

**COME TO THE 171ST
LAKE COUNTY FAIR JULY 28 TO AUG. 2**

JR. FAIR BOARD

Junior Fair Board is looking for new members between the ages of 12 - 19 years old. If you want to learn more about how the fair is run and help to run the Milkshake Booth, contact the Fair Office for more information. We have a lot of fun!



ONLINE ENTRIES

The online entry is the quickest and easiest way to make your fair entries.

- Go on the Fairs' website, www.lakecountyfair.org, beginning Tuesday, July 7.

There is no charge to you to use the online entry system.

- Access the Blue Ribbon Online Site.
- Set up a profile page with your name, address and phone number.
- Browse through the Fair Premium Book at your leisure.
- "Click and pick" the departments, books and classes you want to enter.
- Add any admission, membership, exhibitor or season passes you want to your shopping cart.
- Check out.
- Pick up and pay for your tags and tickets at the Fair Office during office hours.

This convenience is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week until the department deadline. Enjoy the advantages of "one-stop shopping" at your convenience for the Lake County Fair!

