



# The Painesville Pride



Lake Community News

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Willowick Courier  
Painesville Pride

Volume 34 Issue 6

December 2020

12 Pages

## COUNCIL'S CORNER



### Painesville City Council

Front Row: Lori DiNallo, Paul Hach, Tom Fitzgerald  
Back Row: Nick Augustine, Christine Shoop, Katie Jenkins and Jim Fodor

Well, we made it to December! Many of us can agree that this has been a tough year and are just hoping and praying that 2021 holds a brand new world!

When this all started, people were talking about jobs and schools. Today, I hear a lot of people who just want to celebrate the holidays with their families. As of mid-November, the Governor is encouraging families to delay Thanksgiving or celebrate within your little unit and don't host any gatherings. Hopefully by end of year, things will have settled, but I know that no matter what, Christmas will look very different from years past.

Here are a few tips to help us all be able to enjoy our families, safely. Some you've heard a million times, and some may be new:

1. Mask, mask, mask. I know some of you think that the mask does nothing. But what if I told you life could be normal in two months, would you wear it then? Life CAN be normal again but we need to work together.
2. Wash hands frequently. Use sanitizer in between. If you're a host - have single use towels available for your guests!
3. Maintain social distancing. My close family has also toyed with trying to celebrate Thanksgiving together, and in any scenario we have to factor in distancing. Do we have enough room and tables to all be 6 feet away? (I'll let you know how it goes!)
4. Consider what you've done before this holiday season - did you follow all the above guidelines? Are you the risk in the equation? If you're not cautious every day, you could be the wild card. Pay close attention to and follow these precautions at least two weeks before Christmas if you do gather.
5. Consider alternative methods. We live in this amazing world of technology - it can be a blessing and a curse, but this year I believe it has been more of the former. Use FaceTime, Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts and Facebook Messenger. They all offer

*Continued on page 2*

## Holiday Safety Tips from the Fire Department

Painesville City Fire Department has a few simple tips to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season:

- Choose holiday decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant
- Keep lit candles away from decorations or anything that can burn
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both!
- Replace any string lights with

### Lock It or Lose It

Unfortunately, a wave of vehicle break-ins has hit Lake County hard and the Painesville Police Department is urging everyone to be smart to stay safe. Prevention can go a long way:

- Always keep valuables out of sight or in the trunk
- Never leave valuables in unattended vehicles
- Always lock your vehicle, even in your driveway
- Lock your home and keep your garage door closed
- Call in suspicious activity and be a good neighbor by looking out for each other.

### Leaf Pick Up

As a fall reminder, Republic Services collects yard waste and leaves from residential units weekly through December 15.

Yard waste and leaves must be containerized, bagged or tied into bundles that do not exceed four feet in length and four inches in diameter with limbs and branches.

Yard waste pick up will reopen for two weeks only, January 4-15, for Christmas trees.

worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections

- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged
- ALWAYS turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed
- Keep children and pets away

### City of Painesville Snow Reminders

Plowing the roads in Painesville is a full time job. During the winter months, the City works around the clock with two shifts every day. When the snow is heavy, those shifts become 12 hours to keep up with Mother Nature.

In all, the City of Painesville has seven snow plow trucks in commission, all with salt spreaders. Roads are plowed in order of importance - starting with emergency routes, busy roads, hills and bridges. Once those roads are cleared, the secondary streets are plowed.

**There is an automatic parking ban when two inches of snow falls within 24 hours.**

Keep your snow on your own property! Plowing into the street is dangerous for other drivers and doubles our plow drivers' workload when they are trying to keep the streets safe.

### Holiday Light Contest Judging - Dec. 14th

The Painesville Community Improvement Corporation (PCIC) will be hosting their annual Painesville City Holiday Lights Contest. Leave your lights on for judging on Monday, December 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

2020 Divisions include Ward I (north end), Ward II (downtown, east end), Ward III (college area,

from lit candles and make sure to blow out lit candles when leaving the room

Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop and check it frequently. Keep children at least 3 feet away from stoves and ovens.

Happy holidays from PCFD!

While the City plows the streets, it's the property owner's responsibility to shovel snow on any sidewalk abutting their property. In general, sidewalks should be shoveled within 24 hours after the final snowfall. Remember, most of our students walk to and from school everyday!

Make sure you keep fire hydrants unblocked. It's the property owner's responsibility to keep them uncovered. This allows our Fire Department to quickly and effectively access water in case of an emergency, saving precious time.

**If you have any questions or concerns regarding plowing, please contact the Public Works office at 440-392-9676. Remember, during winter storms, crew members will be out plowing and you may have to leave a message.**

south end), Ward IV (Mentor Ave area, west end) and Heisley Park area.

Prizes include PCIC Bucks which are redeemable at Painesville restaurants and shops!

### Winter Decorations

Winter decorations may be placed on graves at Evergreen and Riverside Cemeteries starting November 15 through March 1.

Artificial decorations are allowed during winter months only. Please remember to remove decorations by March 1 to allow for staff to clean up the cemeteries for the Spring.

**Painesville City Offices Closed  
December 24-25 in observance of  
Winter Holiday**

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# City of Painesville Announces the Resignation of City Manager Monica Irelan

City Manager Monica Irelan announced that she has accepted the position of City Manager in Westerville, Ohio and will be resigning her Painesville post effective December 11, 2020. Painesville City Council appointed Irelan to City Manager in December 2016.

“Westerville is a great opportunity for the next step in my career but it was a very difficult decision to leave Painesville,” said Irelan. “This community is so unique and charming in many ways and I really found a home

here. With Painesville City staff, we have accomplished so much in a short period of time and I know their hard work and dedication to this community will continue, no matter who is in the City Manager’s chair.”

Since Irelan took over as City Manager four years ago, the City has seen measurable growth, especially in City Council’s Strategic Plan focus areas of customer service, community investment, improved

infrastructure and safety.

Under City Council and Irelan’s direction, communication and customer service became a priority through the implementation of new modern software in utilities, code enforcement, recreation, human resources and finance departments. A full-time communications position was established to direct day-to-day communications and engagement with the community, which significantly improved relationships with

residents, business owners and the workforce.

Recently, Painesville has also seen an increase in population and growth in housing options. According to Crain’s Cleveland, Painesville’s median household income jumped an estimated 45% over the last three years. New investment in Victoria Place, the former Chase Bank building and the new Signature Health Painesville Medical Center are significant indicators of growth in community and economic investment.

Aging infrastructure has long been an issue in Painesville. Under City Council’s direction, Irelan and staff put together a rolling 5-year road plan that included water, sewer and street improvements. The plan utilized the road levy and more than doubled the funds for road projects with regional and state grants. The new water intake project was also constructed and completed under her tenure.

Safety was another focus area

for Administration, with residents approving a 5-year Police levy in 2019 to hire additional officers and install a new intersection camera system to deter crime. Irelan had the opportunity to appoint two new chiefs: Chief Dan Waterman in Police and Chief Tom Hummel in Fire. City safety forces also saw equipment and vehicle upgrades under their new leadership.

Painesville City Council is currently working on a transition plan while they search for the next Painesville City Manager. After December 11, an interim manager will be appointed until the position is filled.

Westerville, Ohio is a northeastern suburb of Columbus with roughly 37,000 residents and is home to Otterbein University. Similar to Painesville, Westerville operates its own public utilities.

## Council’s Corner

Continued from page 1

free of charge services so you can see your loved ones. Set up your holiday spread, plopp the computer at the end of the table and eat dinner with that uncle in Florida! It’s a great way to connect when you can’t be close.

Nothing right now is easy. Tasks that took 20 minutes before seem to take an hour now. We all miss our family and friends. I have to believe that if we can get through the holidays without incident - then we can weather this storm all together. Do your part to keep our community safe. And Happy Holidays from all of us at Painesville City Council!

Katie Jenkins  
Councilwoman Ward II  
kjenkins@painesville.com

## The Painesville Pride

A Lake Community News Publication

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## Santa Calls for Children Ages 3-10

The City of Painesville made a few special requests with North Pole Headquarters and Santa Claus has agreed to host phone calls with local children ages 3-10!

Mrs. Claus wants to make sure Santa is healthy and ready for the big day, so there will be no Santa laps this year. Not to worry, Santa will be calling good little boys and girls in Painesville on

December 2, 3, 8 and 10 between 6:00-8:00 p.m. Parents must register by filling out a form at [www.painesville.com/recreation](http://www.painesville.com/recreation).

Santa’s mailbox will also be in Painesville Square starting November 20 through December 17. Write a letter to Santa and he’ll write back! Just be sure your letter or envelope has a return address so he knows where to send his reply.

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# Lakeland Waives Application Fee for New Students this Spring

Lakeland Community College is waiving its \$15 application fee for those who apply for admission and wish to take classes in the spring semester. Spring registration is now open and classes begin Jan. 16, 2021.

“With so much uncertainty right now, we want the community to know that they can count on us,” said Dr. Morris Beverage Jr., Lakeland president. “Lakeland has provided college access in Lake County and the surrounding areas for more than 50 years. In times like these,

you can be certain that we’ll continue to provide high-quality, educational opportunities in high demand fields.”

With many having budgets squeezed, future students are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal

Student Aid) to be eligible for help with money for college. Lakeland may be added as a college of choice on the FAFSA form with the school’s code 006804. Many Lakeland scholarships are awarded using the information on a student’s FAFSA.

Because of the pandemic, students may also be eligible for CARES Act Emergency Grant funding toward unforeseen emergency expenses. Many have received money to use for technology, groceries, child

or health care needs. More information is available at [lakelandcc.edu/web/about/cares-act](http://lakelandcc.edu/web/about/cares-act).

Military veterans are especially encouraged to contact the veteran’s office for information about applying GI education benefits. They can get help with questions about filling out, and completing, Veterans Affairs forms and receive assistance with advance registration each semester.

General information about applying, financial aid and degree and certificate programs is available at [lakelandcc.edu](http://lakelandcc.edu).

# Lakeland

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For spring semester 2021, Lakeland Community College is waiving the application fee.

[lakelandcc.edu/spring](http://lakelandcc.edu/spring)

Opportunity starts **HERE**

## Stolen Packages - The Last Thing 2020 Needs

Let’s talk about how Painesville residents are preparing and protecting their homes.

Painesville is a safe city that we all love, but we can never be too careful.

Tis the season for joy and cheer, but with that comes desperation, car break-ins and stolen packages.

We are here to help and do our part at a discount to keep everyone in Painesville safe.

Smart doorbells are the new wave in home protection and smart home improvements.

We find many homeowners have bought these and are immensely intimidated by the installs, with good reason.

The installs of the doorbells come with a variety of different

challenges though.

This is where we, the experts, can help.

We are offering \$99 dollar installs of your smart doorbell (Usually \$225.)

You buy your favorite smart doorbell and have it ready for us. The most popular are Ring, Nest, and Simplisafe.

All above brands make great quality products and we are familiar with all.

Before we arrive please make sure you have strong wifi and a current old school working doorbell.


We have availability to do 10 at this price so this will be a first come first serve deal.


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# Bankruptcy 101:

*Peace of Mind in Tough Financial Times.*

Do you not want to get out of bed because you are distressed over your financial situation and the only peace you feel like you have is when you are asleep?

When you do get up you just want the day to end so that you can do something in the evening that will take your mind off of your sense of impending doom-even if it is just going back to sleep. Some of you might not be able to sleep at all because of the worry. There is also the person that wakes up in the middle of the night with anxiety over finances

and then is unable to go back to sleep.

Are you afraid to go to the mailbox because you know there will be bills that you cannot pay? And then what are you going to do. Is it a high point for you when you open the mailbox and there are no bills?

Is your mind running away with negativity and fear over your financial situation? Are you confused, angry, resentful, and afraid because you have always been able to pay your bills and you just cannot figure out how you ever got to this low point in life?

Do negative thoughts and fears

over your financial situation dominate your mind throughout the day?

If this sounds like you then I have some good news for you. This is it: FINANCIAL TROUBLES ARE TEMPORARY. You can recover financially and prosper no matter how far down you may think you have fallen. I personally know hundreds of people who have. All of it has to do with how you approach the problem. We have used bankruptcy to help thousands of people get back on their feet. If your home is in foreclosure, do not worry, we can help you keep a roof over your head. If you are being sued we can stop the lawsuit. If you are being garnished we can stop the garnishment. If your license is suspended because you caused uninsured property damage, we can help you get it back. If you are being harassed non stop by bill collectors we can make them go away. These are only a few of the ways we can use bankruptcy to help financially distressed

individuals get back on their feet and regain their peace of mind.

The problem is that most people look at filing bankruptcy as a bad ending rather than a new good beginning. Filing bankruptcy is, in fact, a fresh start in life. A rebirth. At some point, everybody knows when they are at the financial point of no return. If you have gotten to that point where you know in your heart that there is not enough income to pay the bills then you should act now. Waiting to file bankruptcy when you are at this point is just prolonging your agony for no real reason. It is unnecessarily jeopardizing your physical and mental well being and that of your family. Worst of all, you are wasting the precious days of what should be a new life in which you are happy, joyous and free.

The process is very easy. We can start these cases for as little as three hundred dollars down and immediately stop the debt collectors from harassing you. The rest of the fee is put into

an affordable payment plan. Basically, all you have to do is come to the office for a free initial consultation in which we evaluate your case to identify the issues that are specific to you. We then work with you to gather the information, put together the paperwork, file it with the court, go to court with you (usually, only one time) and you get a "discharge" which means your debt is wiped out. We help people regain their peace of mind this way every day- All day long.

Finally, do not worry what other people might think. No one is going to know unless you tell them. You would be surprised if you knew how many of your acquaintances have already taken this step. Bankruptcy is extremely common these days. The main point is you are a good person with a fixable problem. Bankruptcy is not a moral issue. It is financial planning for Peace of Mind and prosperity in the worst times since the great depression.

Robert C. Biales

## Mosack's Christian Gifts & Books: Gifts for Every Christian Occasion

Browse Mosack's Christian Gifts & Books, one of our local stores owned by 3rd generation Betty Mosack Vento and husband Joe Vento.

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During these times at home, we have an opportunity to read and grow in our faith. Mosack's

has expanded and provides a wide variety of Christian books, Bibles, Christian fiction and CDs. See the variety of selections in every category of their fine store. Home décor, wall art & crosses, indoor & outdoor nativities, glitter-domes and Christmas ornaments galore!

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# Laketrans Highlights Safety Protocols - Ensuring Public Transit Remains a Safe & Reliable Option During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As COVID-19 case numbers continue to rise in Ohio, Laketrans is joining with the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA) and transit systems across the state to launch the Ride Easy Ohio campaign.

The campaign highlights safety initiatives to uphold public transportation as a safe and viable option, even in the midst of the pandemic. Best practices include wearing facial coverings, practicing social distancing,

cleaning and sanitizing vehicles and facilities, practicing safe hygiene, and employee self-monitoring.

“We want people to know that public transit is a safe place to be. As far as we know, there have been no cases transmitted on-board our buses to date and in a recent survey of our busiest route, 98 percent of our customers said they felt safe riding Laketrans,” shared Laketrans CEO Ben Capelle.

“Keeping public transit safe is a mutual commitment between us and our riders. We provide free masks and hand sanitizer

on-board, limit our seating to six feet apart and continue to sanitize our buses daily. We ask that our riders self-monitor, practice safe hygiene and please don't take transit if you are sick.”

Laketrans has also joined the American Public Transportation Association's Health and Safety Commitments Program and pledged to meet national standards alongside over 175 transit systems nationwide.

Laketrans is committed to five safety protocols

- Following public health guidelines from official sources
- Cleaning and disinfecting

transit vehicles daily and requiring face coverings and other protections

- Practicing social distancing by monitoring passenger loads and capacities

- Keeping passengers informed and empowered to choose the safest ways to travel and pay their fare

- Putting health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including during the Ohio Department of Health's Stay-at-Home order, Laketrans has continued to operate as an essential service, providing trips to work, medical appointments and shopping.

Laketrans' commitment to safety has always been a top priority, and now more than ever, Laketrans wants customers to be assured every precaution possible is being taken to make your ride safe.



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## Routes 8 and 9

# NEW ROUTES. NEW DESTINATIONS.



**LAKETRAN**  
Come Ride with Us!



# Who Says That You Can't Have Fun This Holiday Season?

It will be necessary to make changes to our holiday plans this year and limit family gatherings as we all work together to overcome this Covid-19 pandemic. But we can still have some of the same joy and experiences as in previous years.

Perhaps there are special decorations and serving pieces that have been family favorites throughout the years, but belong to a home you cannot visit this year.

Come into Antiques & Uniques to find the same or similar pieces that will make the holidays more

familiar and comforting..... even if there is a store-bought rotisserie chicken on this year's turkey platter!

We are taking safety precautions at A&U to help you to have a safe shopping experience. We hear comments all the time from customers about how clean our store is, how helpful and friendly everyone is, and how they feel comfortable and safe coming in to shop. Here are some of the things we have in place:

1. Face coverings are required,
2. Social distancing (including 10 ft dealer spaces off of our 5 ft

aisles, giving plenty of separation from other shoppers),

3. High ceilings and a large volume of air, that is processed by six roof-top air handling units, with upgraded air filters,

4. Frequent sanitizing of surfaces, etc.

You can come into Antiques & Uniques to find that special, one-of-a-kind gift that will mean so much in this crazy year! We also have Gift Cards available for purchase. A gift card will give the person an opportunity to enjoy "the thrill of the hunt" for that special "something" at A&U. If

you would like to purchase a Gift Card over the phone, call A&U at 440-944-0133 and we will mail it out to you.

Asa's Angels is in our Community Spotlight space again this year. Ordinarily, they are requesting gifts of toys and clothing for the children's gifts. This year is a little different. We cannot accept gifts due to the Covid limitations, but A&U is a drop-off site for donations by credit card, cash, check, or gift card. Asa's Angels will use these

donations to buy the gifts they need for the kids on Santa's list. Please bring in your contribution to this worthwhile cause. Even in this difficult year, let's help kids to have a Merry Christmas.

All our best Holiday Wishes to you from our family-of-dealers at Antiques & Uniques! 30200 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe. (In the plaza with Gabe's, one mile west of SOM Center Rd (Rt.91). Open Wed thru Sat 10:00 to 6:00 and Sun 12:00 to 6:00.

Special evening shopping hours on Thursday, Dec. 3 - 10:00 to 9:00 pm.

## MEET YOUR LOCAL FIREPLACE DEALER!

If you are wondering how to avoid the high cost of heating your home this winter, then take a ride to American Home & Energy Products in Painesville Township, across the street from the Lake County Fairgrounds.

You will find the owner there, Chris Bedrick, and his staff, ready and able to give you the best information about quality heating products that will save you money (and worries) about keeping warm in your home during the cold NE Ohio winter season.

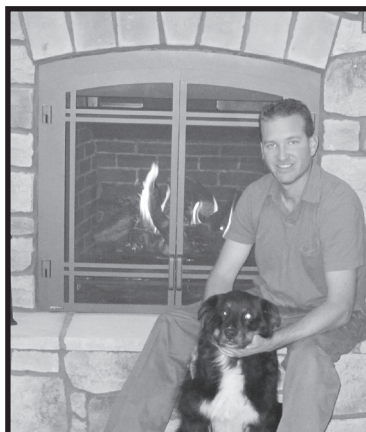
Chris said, "We are a full service store dedicated to customer service.

We educate our customers on the heating products and work with them to determine the best solution for their particular situation. Then we are able to

sell them a high efficiency unit, install the unit and service it afterwards. We also offer our customers pellet fuel, firewood and a complete hearth shop featuring all the products having to do with a fireplace!"

Chris says that American Home is all about green energy and proves that with high efficiency Regency wood, gas and pellet products including fireplaces, inserts and stoves. They have burning displays in the store to demonstrate the incredible heat, beautiful ambiance and easy to use heating products. You can see for yourself how great the units look, as well as how much heat you can expect, by coming in and experiencing the working products.

American Home & Energy is located at 1270 Mentor Avenue



(Rt 20) in Painesville Township, across from the Lake County Fairgrounds. Store hours are Monday through Friday 9am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The store is closed on Sunday.

Call 440-358-5858 or visit the website at American-Home-Online.com for more information.

## Happy Holidays

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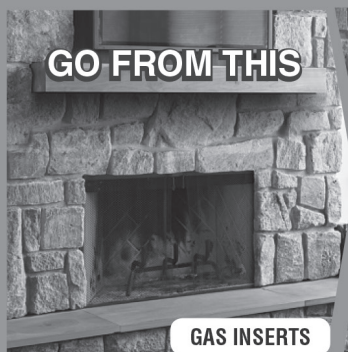


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# Keep, Change, or Update Your Marketplace Plan

Time is running out for those with 2020 ACA Marketplace health insurance to renew, change, or update their plans for 2021. The Marketplace Open Enrollment Period ends Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

If you have a Marketplace plan, you should have already received two letters: one from your current insurance company and one from the Marketplace. Together they explain:

- Your 2021 coverage status

- Which plan (if any) you will be enrolled in or matched with if you do not act by December 15, 2020

- Any changes in your coverage and financial help

- Directions if you need to send the Marketplace any documents

If you have not received your insurance letter, contact your insurance company. If you have not received your Marketplace letter, contact the Marketplace Call Center.

No matter what plan you choose

to enroll in, we urge you to update your Marketplace application with your expected income and household information and compare your current plan to what is available for 2021.

We encourage you to do this comparison because new affordable plans may be available this year. Plans and prices change every year. Your situation may have changed too. You may find 2021 plans with coverage and features that better meet your needs, especially if you have had or expect income or household changes.

By updating your application, you are helping to make sure

your 2021 financial help will be correct. Financial help is based on your expected income for 2021 (not 2020). If you do not update your income and household information, you could wind up paying more than you need to. If you do not renew or enroll in a plan by December 15, 2020, you may be automatically enrolled in the same or a similar plan, so you are covered on January 1, 2021.

If you need assistance, please set up an appointment with me by calling 440-255-5700 or emailing me at [Lmutsko@mutskoinsurance.com](mailto:Lmutsko@mutskoinsurance.com). Appointments fill up fast so

please do not wait until the last minute to call.

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## Smart Meters for Painesville Electric Customers

Painesville Electric is pleased to announce plans to upgrade the electric meters in your neighborhood. This upgrade will begin late October and will take approximately six months to complete. We are excited about bringing advanced technology to our community and the benefits it will provide our customers, that's why we want to keep you informed and answer any questions you may have.

Our current meter infrastructure is being replaced by advanced meters capable of providing more accurate and timely data to us and you, the customer. This new meter transmits the data to us over

a secure wireless network that is being installed in Painesville. Unlike the current analog meters, advanced meters or 'smart' meters, do not need to be read by a meter reader and provides two-way communication for improved efficiencies, distribution automation and improved power quality and reliability.

Investment in a solid Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) helps us improve the way we do business and allows our customers to take control over their energy usage. Because these meters are digital and use a wireless network for two-way communication, usage data is more timely, accurate and secure. Because we are receiving usage data over a wireless network, we no longer need to drive or enter a customer's property to obtain electric readings.

We estimate it will take approximately 5 minutes to replace the typical electric meter.

In order to do the work safely, your electric service will be turned off during this time while the work is being done. As long as a meter technician can access your meter, you do not have to be present. We will leave a door hanger notifying you that the work was completed. If we are unable to access the meter, we will leave a door hanger providing you information to re-schedule.

As utility infrastructure across the country ages, it is being replaced with the most advanced technology available, including advanced meters. Through this program, we are able to offer our customers the same host of safe, secure and accurate services as neighboring utilities at no additional cost.

For any questions or concerns, please contact us at 440-392-3452 or 440-392-5954. More information about the program can be found at [www.painesville.com/smartmeters](http://www.painesville.com/smartmeters).

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# Audubon Seeks Counters for Christmas Bird Census

Blackbrook Audubon Society invites everyone to add to a century of science during the 121st annual Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 26.

Blackbrook encourages anyone interested in birding to join the CBC in one of two ways: in the field or from the comfort of your own home. Everyone will bird safely following the current Covid-19 guidelines.

The object of the CBC is to count all the bird species and number of birds in a 15-mile diameter circle in one 24-hour period between December 14 and January 5. Anyone living within the circle can also report birds at their feeder.

To be assigned to a team covering a specific area on foot or in a vehicle, or to report backyard feeder counts, contact Dan Donaldson, the compiler for Blackbrook's circle, at danook057@yahoo.com. He will provide a data form for participants' checklists and details on how to join the virtual gathering later in the day, rather than the traditional lunch at noon, where everyone can share stories

of the day's census. Birders of all skill levels are welcome and no fee is required.

Blackbrook's CBC circle covers from Lost Nation Airport to Western Perry, Lake Erie down to Holden Arboretum and Big Creek Park in Geauga County.

Blackbrook Audubon's territory covers Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake counties. The Ashtabula CBC circle is centered east of Kingsville. Marc Hanneman compiles that count, which will be Saturday, January 2, 2021. Contact Marc at marchanneman@embarqmail.com to help with that count.

The CBC circle for Geauga County is centered west of Burton. Their count will also be January 2 and is compiled by Linda Gilbert, a naturalist with Geauga Park District. She can be reached at lgilbert@geaugaparkdistrict.org.

Circles for the count stretch from Arctic Bay, Baffin Island in Canada to a NOAA research vessel in the Drake Passage at the southern-most tip of South America; as far west as Guam in the Pacific to the eastern tip of Brazil. Census takers in the NEO

circles share the same mission and may count on the same day as birders in some of these far-off places.

View a map of active CBC circles at <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>.

For more information on the

local Audubon chapter, visit [blackbrookaudubon.org](http://blackbrookaudubon.org).

The Christmas Bird Count is the longest-running community science project in North America and helps biologists monitor bird

population trends. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman proposed a new holiday tradition - a "Christmas Bird Census" when people would count birds rather than hunt them.



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# Lake County Launches "Connections" to Combat Senior Loneliness

Lake County General Health District (LCGHD), in partnership with the Painesville Senior Center and We Thrive Together, both Lake County nonprofit organizations, is launching "Connections" as part of the Motivate Lake County (MLC) wellness initiative. A virtual senior engagement

platform consisting of free online events, including discussion groups, games, exercise classes, relaxation sessions, virtual trips, presentations, and support groups, "Connections" can be accessed by any internet-ready device or telephone, and aims to keep seniors engaged with their peers during a time with limited social engagement, as prompted by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"While LCGHD stands by our recommendation that Lake

County senior centers remain closed until January 1, 2021 due to the spread of COVID-19, we can't stand by without addressing the escalation in social isolation and loneliness among seniors" stated Health Commissioner Ron Graham. "Fortunately, we already had the MLC platform in place, and were able to leverage this technology to meet the needs of our senior residents". Thus far, the Lake County Council on Aging, Fairhill Partners, and the Wickliffe, Willoughby, Perry,

and Eastlake Senior Centers have opted to participate in the program, to ensure that their members stay engaged and connected during this critical time.

According to an October report by the AARP Foundation and United Health Foundation, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted a rise in social isolation and loneliness, with nearly two-thirds of the nation's adults experiencing some form of social isolation. While more than half of these individuals also report that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused their anxiety levels to increase, many are not reaching out for help. This growing trend is alarming, as social isolation has long been linked to poor health outcomes, including but not limited to dementia, heart disease, and depression.

To sign up for an event, individuals can call (440) 478-5640 or email register@MotivateLakeCounty.com. A full list of programming can be found at www.motivatelakecounty.com. For more information on "Connections", please contact Denise Powell at denise@painesvilleseniors.com, or (216) 318-1211.

## Women's Committee of the Fine Arts Association Presents Nwaka Onwusa-from The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

The Women's Committee of the Fine Arts Association will present Nwaka Onwusa, Vice President of Curatorial Affairs & Chief Curator of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Onwusa will focus on how the Rock Hall develops exhibit ideas, collects artifacts and then curates the exhibits.

The presentation will be in the theater at the The Fine Arts, 38660 Mentor Avenue, Willoughby on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

There is limited seating for this program in accordance with the protocols of safe distancing and wearing masks. If circumstances warrant cancellation, notification

will be made accordingly.

Reservations are required no later than January 6, 2021 by email to anthonyjanem@yahoo.com or call 440-579-5020. The cost is \$10.00 per person payable at the door in cash or by check.

The Women's Committee is an independent auxiliary whose mission is to support and promote The Fine Arts Association in the appreciation of the creative arts of music, dance, art and drama.

www.fineartsassociation.org



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Let us show you how to make your next remodeling project a little easier by calling Shoreline Window and Remodeling Company at (440) 946-1495 or (440) 336-3300. You can also look us up at [www.shorelinewindowandremodeling.com](http://www.shorelinewindowandremodeling.com).



# DIVORCE 101:

## The Beginning or the End

A substantial part of my law practice involves divorce and child custody litigation. I always find it sad to see people who once lit up each others life uncomfortable to sit in the same room. People who once laughed and loved and built a family together and are now unable to even speak to one another. To me, it is like seeing a wild animal in a television documentary that loses its life innocently or driving by the remains of a dog that has been run over. It is not a part of my personal world yet it touches my heart with a very heavy sadness. We are conditioned as humans to associate the end of relationships and life as negative. I think it is partly because people fear change. When a situation changes the future appears uncertain; but the future is always uncertain. It is our illusion that it is not.

The real question is if there is really any difference between the beginning or the end other than one's perspective. Every beginning is the end of something and every end is the beginning of something. So which one is divorce? It's whatever the person going through it decides. So why does it matter what we think? It hurts.

## Are You Ready to "Cut the Cable?"

In the past, many of you have asked me "Is it possible to cut the cable?" My reply has always been "not yet, but soon". I've been saying it for 7 years. Well, "SOON" is HERE!!

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I'm angry. I hate. I'm alone. I'm afraid. I didn't do anything. It's not fair. He's evil. She's a ..... He's a drunk. She won't stop using drugs. I hate my (fill in the blank) life. What is the GD point. The point is when do you want to KNOW peace. Know as in "feel" as in "not to be in a constant state of turmoil and suffering." That is the whole point of this periodic 24 hour trek down the road of existence.

People do things that hurt other people. This is a fact of life. In this regard, if you believe in Karma things will work out. If you believe in justice they won't. If you believe that the system or the court will fix it-you will be disappointed. That is why negotiation and compromise between the divorcing parties is ALWAYS the best and least expensive way to resolve these situations. That is the process of dissolution and we will talk about that in another article. If you believe in revenge- you and your children will be hurt seriously. This is a guarantee. Your anguish will not be felt or considered by the object of your anger. That is a metaphysical reality. He or she is not thinking about you or the kids when their with the new squeeze in Aruba. They are not wallowing in remorse. Not then anyway. Trust me on this one.

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My name is Jeff Berg and I am available to personally speak with you to discuss your individual technology needs. I invite you to contact me at (440)461-3900, (216) 789-7936 or jeff@mobilecsllc.com so I can personally help you find a solution for your household or business technology challenges.

Good and bad are equally useless concepts when it comes to evaluation of a person, place, situation or thing. I got the job (the girl, the guy, the promotion, the last one, the only one- fill in the blank.) You didn't. It is a "good" day for me. It is a "bad" day for you. The mouse ate the spider who ate the fly. Their all hungry. They all want to survive. Which one is good? Which one is bad? It's the same with people. All reality is based upon perception.

I practice family law because I believe that divorce is the beginning of freedom AND the end of pain. To get to the point of seeking divorce either one or both people are usually in substantial pain. The purpose of an effective divorce attorney is to dissolve the marriage as painlessly, quickly and inexpensively as possible. It is also to help the client to learn how to develop tools (such as establishing credit, learning a vocation or career, obtaining child care and developing parenting skills) so that they will be able to live independently and successfully after the divorce is final. Some clients have been


put down or abused for so long that they need to develop a sense of self worth and emotional and psychological stability and self confidence before they will know peace. The divorce attorney should be willing to assist these clients in finding affordable and appropriate professional providers to help them achieve this. In many cases, the children need the same professional help. Sometimes the parties in a divorce become so embittered toward each other that they act in ways which are detrimental to the best interests of their children. Mostly, they have no idea that they may be causing unnecessary distress to their children. The attorney should be willing to help the parent identify and correct this type of behavior. He or she should be willing (even though it may invite hostility on the part of

the client) to instruct the parent how to act appropriately and in the best interest of the children throughout the divorce process. In cases involving children the protection and fostering of their emotional and psychological development must be the primary focus. These are the ways by which an effective divorce attorney helps the client and the children to know peace.

Divorce is essentially a new beginning of life and the end of pain. The divorce attorney is the guide that moves the client down the path that leads to knowing peace of mind through independence and self sufficiency. The attorney is the mother bear who keeps the cubs safe and prepares them for life on their own.

Robert C. Biales





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# Auggie's Pet Food Pantry Open to All Lake County Residents in Need

Lake Humane Society is happy to announce that Auggie's Pet Food Pantry is open to all Lake County residents in need.

The pantry, located in the Lake Humane Society Annex at 7564 Tyler Blvd. in Mentor, is open the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of

each month from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Appointments are not necessary. A current driver's license, mortgage/rent statement or utility bill are required to show residency. There are no income requirements.

Lake Humane Society will provide dog and cat food every 2 weeks to community members in need who utilize Auggie's Pet Food Pantry. Food for other types of pets may be available upon request. The food provided has been purchased through grant funding and bulk discount buying programs through large pet food companies such as Purina.

The Pet Food Pantry is named after Auggie, a very special boxer mix who came to Lake Humane Society through a humane investigation in 2017. Auggie was emaciated, dehydrated, anemic and close to death when

he was found by the Humane Agent. He is also a fighter. In just 7 days in the care of LHS, he gained 7 lbs. Auggie is now healthy, happy and living his best life with his forever family. The pet food pantry is named in honor of Auggie because of his resilience when faced with adversity.

"Studies have shown that pets can relieve stress, reduce feelings of loneliness and help boost a person's overall emotional health and well-being. We never want someone to feel they have to surrender their pet because they cannot afford to feed them," said Lori Caszatt, Director of Marketing and Community Partnerships at Lake Humane Society.

"Due to COVID-19, many people have lost their jobs, are being evicted from their homes and struggling to make ends meet. Auggie's Pet Food Pantry

is a way we feel we can help support the community and all of Lake County."

"In the future, we will be opening a wellness clinic for low income individuals. This will help ensure that pets all across Lake County have their vaccines, an annual exam and medications so they are healthy and live a long, happy life."

For more information on Auggie's Pet Food Pantry, please visit lakehumane.org.

The mission at Lake Humane Society is to protect animals and build connections between pets and people through advocacy and education. Lake Humane Society is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization and operates solely on donations. For more information on Lake Humane Society or to donate, please visit www.lakehumane.org.

## City Skate Center

Check out the fall/winter schedule at City Skate Center in Painesville!

We are booking reservations for fall/winter birthday parties, call for available times.

We offer beginner group lessons and private lessons are available for all ages call for scheduling and times. Speed Team practice will resume on Saturday and Sunday morning 10- 12pm and Wednesday 6-8 pm.

As the weather turns cold and your looking to stay in shape don't overlook this sport Roller Skating. Roller skating is for all ages and is one of the most fun and easy activities that the

whole family can enjoy together. Roller skating is recognized and recommended by the American Heart Association (AMA) as an aerobic fitness sport. One hour of skating per week can burn 600 calories, 30 minutes of skating produces a heart rate of at least 148 beats per minutes, roller skating works most muscle groups including: glutes, quads, abs, calves, arms and causes 50% less stress to joints than running.

If you are looking to stay in shape, get in shape or just wanting to have some good family fun come join us at the City Skate Center 63 West Walnut Ave, Painesville, Ohio 440-352-2002.

## 2020 SKATE SCHEDULE

DAY	TIMES	SESSION TYPE	ADMISSION
MONDAY	PRIVATE PARTY & SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS AVAILABLE! CALL 440-352-2002		
TUESDAY	6:00-8:00pm	\$2 TUESDAY OPEN SKATE	\$2 Admission \$2 Skate Rental
WEDNESDAY	PRIVATE PARTY & SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS AVAILABLE! CALL 440-352-2002		
	6:00-8:00pm	CSC SPEED TEAM PRACTICE	\$5 Admission
THURSDAY	PRIVATE PARTY & SCHOOL FUNDRAISERS AVAILABLE! CALL 440-352-2002		
FRIDAY	7:00-10:00pm	OPEN SKATE	\$7 Admission
SATURDAY	10:00am-12:00pm	BEGINNER SPEED PRACTICE	\$5 Admission
	12:15-1:00pm	LEARN TO SKATE CLASS	\$10 Admission <i>Includes skate rental and 1-4pm family skate</i>
	1:00-4:00pm	FAMILY FUN SKATE <i>Parents skate free w/paid child admission</i>	\$6 Admission
SATURDAY	7:00-10:00pm	OPEN SKATE <i>Buy one admission get one free</i>	\$7 Admission
	10:00am-12:00pm	CSC SPEED TEAM PRACTICE	\$5 Admission
SUNDAY	1:00-4:00pm	FAMILY FUN SKATE <i>Parents skate free w/paid child admission</i>	\$6 Admission

For the beginning skaters we have Skate Mates available for rental for \$5.00 per session. Skate Rental is \$3.00 if needed. Skate rental extra unless indicated.



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