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square dancing by the Pleasant Valley Boys ended the days festivities.

Buckeye Lake's Annual Boat Parade began with Howard Everitt playing a touching rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" on his trumpet and then the Millersport American Legion Color Guard gave a 21 gun salute.

There was lively crowd who was very

enthusiastic with every decorated boat entry that passed by.

A salute went to "Most Patriotic" boat #26 which embodied the patriotic fervor with its vibrant display of red, white and blue.

A standing ovation went to "Most Creative" boat #27. Their Tina Turner tribute, awash in a sea of golden flair.

A whopping total of nearly 750 texts voted this year. The compe-

tion was hotter than ever! The "People's Choice" boat #31, a rendition of Parrothead Paradise, a la Margaritaville, floated effortlessly into everyone's hearts.

I think that everyone enjoys the small town Independence Day celebrations. They are celebrating freedom, our nation, and our history. It lets our small towns have the opportunity to share their patriotism.

From The Desk Of The Buckeye Lake Mayor One Year & Six Months



A recap of all that has been going on in Buckeye Lake Village since I took office, January 1st, 2022. I was sworn into office as Mayor actually on December 30, 2021, by Mayor Peggy Wells, my predecessor and great role model.

Mayor Wells transitioned me to take her position with ease and grace. Showing me the items that were completed and those that were still pending or getting ready to start. Mayor Wells introduced me to all the employees, in order to make my transition easier on day one taking my seat as Mayor. Starting in a leadership position is an uncomfortable experience for everyone. The unknowns are many, how will the work place be? Will the new Mayor change everything? Will the new Mayor micro manage everyone? I could go on to all the hows, whats, whys, and where's, but very proud to say we all gelled perfectly like we had been together for years. This great transition and the wonderful staff that I had, made for moving the Buckeye Lake Village forward a very doable task. Oh, we have had bumps in the road but that was to be expected. My staff respected me and I them. They found out quickly that I was not a micro manager. I let them all know that I knew they all had jobs to do and they knew how to do them without me watching over their shoulders every second. As Mayor, I encourage education. We can all better ourselves through learning more each day. Going to conferences you lift yourselves up and meet others who do what you do and discuss issues and share solutions. To date only a few have taken advantage of this but I still encourage the continuation of educating ones self.

The biggest project was the Gateway Bridge. That project took almost two years from start to finish. I am proud to say the project was

first walked through earlier this year and is now completed with a few minor items being cleaned up.

The sidewalk and curb project is also completed to a point. More of that work and road work is to continue for the the next three years. We have added cross walks, handicap areas and are making our streets safe for all with slow moving vehicle lanes, bicycles, and golf carts. We are developing a walkable community for all.

The median has been cleaned up and storm water drains are being positioned throughout the Village to take care of the flooding. This project is far from complete but a good effort is being made to prepare to complete this over the next few years as well. We will, in 2025 - 2026, be moving west on Walnut Road to widen and add sidewalks, curbs, and cross walk areas. The hope is to eventually take this to our corporation limit to the west of the village. Our infrastructure projects are very aggressive. We feel this will be necessary, given the growth that we are going to be experiencing over the next few years. The growth won't just be from tourism. We are also a great place to live and raise a family.

Building businesses along the SR 79 and Walnut Road corridor is what we are working on. We are building from the ground up. Unlike our neighbors, we have never had a business district. Buckeye Lake was an entertainment spot on the lake. The amusement park and pool with the ballrooms was "The Cats Meow" "The Playground Of Ohio". You have probably heard all of these and more over the years. I can assure you that major changes are coming. Attracting businesses to our area is a great undertaking. I am proud to say that in a year and half we have had the following businesses open in Buckeye Lake Village: 3XPO, Eyecare About You, Rittenberger Market, Englefield Duchess Gas & Mini Market, The Blue Heron Kitchen & Pub, Yellow Sundress Resale Boutique, Coffee Shack, Buckeye

Lake Margaritas, the Boat Yard (added a restaurant), Smoke On The Water, Theresa's Boutique, and Lindsey's Smokehouse BBQ who moved to a brick and mortar across from the KOA. This is just the beginning of what is to come. I understand that Whit's Frozen Yogurt will be opening again soon. We are hoping that Knuckleheads would be leased as well. Lets fill our community with many different businesses and watch us grow!

I would be remiss if I didn't say anything about the recreation center at Ryan-Braden Park. The parks commission along with the help of village personnel have made this building active again. The building is available for rent. See the parks information on the Buckeye Lake Village website.

Our police have held movie nights and we are hoping to start again soon. The Police and Fire have been amazing, and work very closely together. This is a little unheard of, but not by us.

With the great help to drive the community together as one, we have brought back the Great Halloween Party, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Christmas Parade. We started a ceremonial tree lighting with the ODNR joining in for the first time ever. We have brought back "Shop With A Cop." First time in a long time, the Fire Department held a Secret Santa for parents and grandparents to shop the kids wish list. The pouring out of donations for all this was absolutely amazing! Yes, we are a great place to live!

Professional associations have assisted in building our knowledge of how to grow and grow smart. In the past year and half we have joined Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), Licking County Chamber, Grow Licking County, Greater Buckeye Lake Chamber, Buckeye Lake Regional Corporation (BLRC), and have worked with Jodi Melfi - Jodi Melfi Design, and had the great opportunity to have two interns from The Ohio State

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"People's Choice" boat #31 - Laurie Bethge. photo submitted by Reine Down Photography



"Most Creative" was boat #27 - Yvonne Family. photo submitted by Reine Down Photography



"Most Patriotic" was boat #26 - John & Paula Clark & Family photo submitted.

What's Going on
This Week
At the Lake...

Find Out What's Happening

NOTICE

H E B R O N AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION FALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN. Season is set to start on September 9th. Register before August 14th to receive a \$15 discount. Register at <https://hebronareasoccer.com/>

EMERGENCY HELP CALL 740-527-2230, ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY.

THORNVILLE FOOD PANTRY - On North Main St., Thornville. Open 9:30am-noon on the third Wednesday and Saturday of each month. You must provide proof that you live in the Thorn Township.

BUCKEYE LAKE FOOD PANTRY AND LEADS. PH. 740.928.4481. Office hours are 9am-4pm. Pantry is Tuesday-Thursday 9-11am. Heap/PIPP assistance here too!

THORNVILLE SENIOR CITIZENS are looking for new members! Meeting are the third Tuesday of each month noon, at Grace Lutheran Church. Pot-luck and games afterwards. (No meeting if Northern Local Schools are closed).

THE HEBRON HISTORICAL SOCIETY monthly meeting on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:PM at the Hebron Masonic Lodge! The public is welcome!

BOUNDLESS FREEDOM VETERANS ADVENTURE WEEK-END. In partnership with Team Red, White & Blue and Wooded Warrior Project. **July 14-16, 2023**, Columbus, OH. Calling Veterans and families of ALL abilities! Get ready for some adventure, inspiration, camaraderie and more at Adaptive Sports Connections Boundless Freedom: Veterans Adventure Week-end. This is a FREE event for Veterans and family!

FITNESS. At the Harbor Center Buckeye Lake Fitness Center.

MONDAY-FRIDAY FREE SENIOR LUNCHESES, at The Harbor Community Center, Buckeye Lake, 11:45am-1:00pm.

SUNDAYS FREE HOT MEALS at 84 West 5th St., Buckeye Lake. NOON -2:00pm. Will be passing out hot meals every Sunday. Children and adults are invited. Sponsored by JOHN'S HELPING HANDS 1973.

TUESDAYS

THORNVILLE CLOTHES CLOSET is open every Tuesday from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Located above the Thornville Police Department, West Columbus Street. Free clothing for public.

H A R B O R COMMUNITY CENTER. Buckeye Lake. Nurse is in 11:30AM-12:30PM FREE.

WEDNESDAYS

NEW LIFE BABY PANTRY, Hebron Methodist Church. PH. 740-415-1914. Baby Pantry Hours are Wed. 5-6:45pm, & Sat. 10am -12pm.

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH FOOD PANTRY. OPEN Every Wednesday 1-2:30pm, 5133 Walnut Rd., Buckeye Lake.

JACKSONTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY. Open Wed.10am-12pm & 6-7pm. Located south of intersection Rt. 13 and Rt. 40. Everyone welcome. Bring utility bill & photo ID on each visit to register w/Licking Co. Food Pantry Network. Call 740-323-4429 for more info.

THURSDAYS

MILLERSPORT COMMUNITY FOOD

PANTRY

open Thursdays from 7-7:50 pm. Located at 2315 Weekly Ave., Millersport. Serving Walnut Twp. and surrounding areas.

BLUEGRASS THURSDAY NIGHTS

starting 7:00pm at the Hebron American Legion #285, 108 Water St., Hebron. TNT Bluegrass. \$7.00 at the door. Food served.

FRIDAYS

MILLERSPORT MOVIE NIGHT. Fri., July 29 enjoy Summer Movie Nights in the Park in Millersport w/ Super Mario Brothers.

SATURDAYS

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH COMMUNITY BREAKFAST Saturday, August 5 from 7:30-10:30am, Jacksontown United Methodist Church., St. Rt. 13, Jacksontown. Adults \$6.00, Children 6-12 years. \$2.00, under 6 years Free.

MILLERSPORT MUSIC IN THE PARK. Sat., July 22 enjoy listening to Sweetwater.

BACKYARD BARBECUE COMMUNITY DINNER. Thornville United Methodist Church, Sat., July 15, 4:30-6:30pm. Cost donation. BBQ

chicken, Macaroni Salad, Fruit Salad, Macaroni & Cheese, Coleslaw, Corn on the cob, baked beans, cornbread, drinks and desserts.

You Are Loved!
SACRIFICIALLY:
God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
John 3:16
King James Version

From The Desk Of The Buckeye Lake Mayor One Year & Six Months

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University through MORPC.

We completed our comprehensive plan and are now working on a tax incentive finance (TIF). We are cleaning up our public development district (PDD), along with several other much needed areas of instruction by hiring outside professional assistance. When you are growing you must stay in front of the growth at all times.

We are working on planning for a new fire/police station, public works building, and new municipal building. These are in discussion currently and the numbers and financing must be considered then presented to council. We are also working on safe streets for all, Bike Buckeye Lake for trails, nature walking areas and with all that, we have two major developments knocking on the door and will soon be announced and presented.

As your Mayor, I have been working on the DORA area with the Village Solicitor, and the much needed legislation for Airbnb and bed and breakfast with council. We have had and continue to have developers discussing all types of future projects for the Buckeye Lake Village area. I have ridden along with the Licking County Aging Partners to feed our seniors, a very enlightening experience. As your Mayor I have also ridden along with our emergency staff on a run

that took the patient to the hospital, seeing first hand the gentle respect the team had for the patient. I have attended many meetings outside the scope of our Buckeye Lake Village to bring ideas and making strong working conditions with our neighbors. We started the Children's Lunch Program for the summer and this has been a huge success. I have been invited to three or four update meetings on the Intel Project that everyone is talking about. Emily Smith is a very enthusiastic young woman who is leading the meetings, along with an amazing group of individuals.

It has been a very active and busy year and a half as Mayor. I can't wait for the next two and a half years to see results and development start. What an exciting time to be a part of our great community. I want to thank my staff, Police Department, Fire/EMS/Medic, Street Department and Public Works for helping us get where we are today. Without their dedication and hard work none of this would be possible, so as small as this seems, a large thank you from the bottom of my heart to each and everyone of you for all you do. We are a real team - no I's in team. Keep smiling,

Thank you,
Mayor Jeryne Peterson
Buckeye Lake Village, 5192 Walnut Road