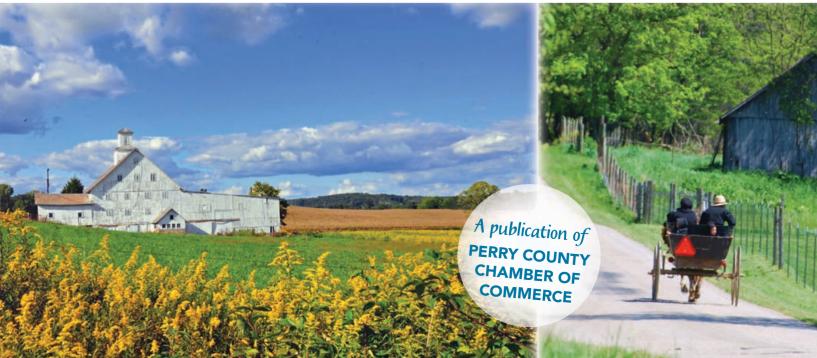
# Discover PERRY COUNTY











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## Discover Perry County



In collaboration with

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121 S. Main St. | New Lexington, Ohio 740-342-3547 www.perrycountyohiochamber.com

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## DISCOVER PERRY COUNTY!

ESTLED IN THE HILLS of Appalachia Ohio, Perry County welcomes you to experience our courtesy, kindness and hospitality. We invite you to visit our historical sites and monuments and enjoy the beautiful scenery. You will find many wonderful restaurants and unique shops while visiting here.

Whether you enjoy boating or biking at Buckeye Lake on our north border or hiking in Wayne National Forest on our Southern Border, we offer many great destinations there and in between. Perry County offers a beautiful and unique 12-hole golf course and many ATV trails for those who enjoy riding.

Please visit the Chamber's website for more information about all of our members and this beautiful region that we call home. Our website can be found at www.perrycountyohiochamber.com.

Please visit us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on upcoming events.

#### THANK YOU,

Perry County Chamber of Commerce

Visit our website and Facebook for info on parks, programs and events in Perry County!

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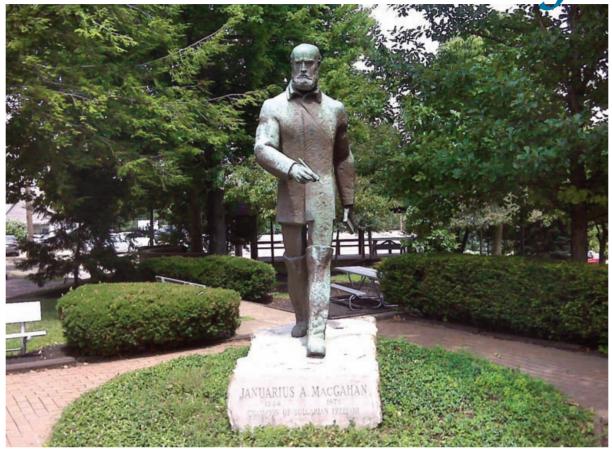
#### **Providing employment and training needs for business & industry.**

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Check out New Lexington



ew Lexington is the County Seat of Perry County and is located at the picturesque western end of the Appalachian plateau at the start of hills in Southern Ohio. The Perry County Court House, located in the center of town, was built near the end of the nineteenth century and is registered on the US National Register of Historic Places.

Across the street from the Courthouse stands a Statue of Januarius Aloysius MacGahan. He is something of a hometown legend (born near New Lexington). He was a war time journalist and referred to as the Liberator of Bulgaria.

Recreation in the village includes a public bowling center with attached restaurant (Fiore's), outdoor swimming pool, public parks and tennis courts.

New Lexington offers several typical fast foods and chain restaurants-McDonalds, Wendys, Pizza Hut, Crenos, Dominoes and Los Mariachis. You might want to check out some of our popular local restaurants while

you're in town. Dodson's on Broadway (www.dodsonsonbroadway.com) offers a casual dining experience with home cooking that won't disappoint. Another great local destination is Trotters Pub & Grill on Main Street. They offer a great menu and pub type atmosphere. They have a great patio that's open in the warmer season and often have live music. Check them out on Facebook.

You may want to visit the Pizza Place (www.thepizzaplacenewlex.com) located at 100 W. Broadway across from the monument square. It's not just pizza. Their menu offers quite a selection of food. The Pizza Place was part of the 1980s film "Brubaker" under a different name, "Pinky's." Parts of the movie were filmed in the restaurant and are part of The Pizza Place's, as well as Perry County's, long rich history. The original "Pinky's" neon sign, along with other memorabilia from the film starring Robert Redford, adorn the walls in their dining room. They have become one of Perry County's favorite pizza

destinations and have been featured in the industry standard Pizza Today Magazine.

New Lexington, often referred to as New Lex, is home to the world famous Ludowici Roof Tile. Their tile can be seen on some of the most famous buildings in America including the White House. Ludowici's Community Foundation is a charitable organization that emphasizes physical fitness, environmental awareness and civic responsibility for the youth of Southeast Ohio. They have a 160 acre Recreation Facility that offers a 5 acre lake, a shelter with seating for 80, hiking trails, playground areas, a 300 square foot splashpad with 7 fountains, youth athletic field and a 10 acre wetlands.

New Lex is the home of the Perry County Fair. The 2022 Fair runs from July 18-23. The fairgounds is located at 5445 SR 37, New Lexington. They have several celebrations throughout the year including a 4th of July celebration and a Fall Festival usually held in September. The 2022 date is yet to be determined.



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David C. Couch Superintendent PerryDD.org 740-342-3542

Community Connections Center 600 Senior Drive

# Come to Roseville/Crooksville

he Clay Center of Ohio (formerly The National Ceramic Museum) exhibits include pottery made in southeastern Ohio. Early functional ware, art pottery and contemporary manufactured ware are well represented. The Museum gift shop includes pottery currently made by regional potteries and local potter artists. Stop here for local tourist information, including directions to pottery stores and galleries. On the museum grounds enjoy picnic sites and shelters for meetings & gatherings. Overnight visitors can take advantage of a campground with electric hook-ups or a cottage, The Ceramic Hide-Away. Location: At the intersection of Ceramic Rd. and Ohio State Route 93 between Roseville and Crooksville, Ohio. Please call for hours of operation 740-343-8066 or 697-0171.

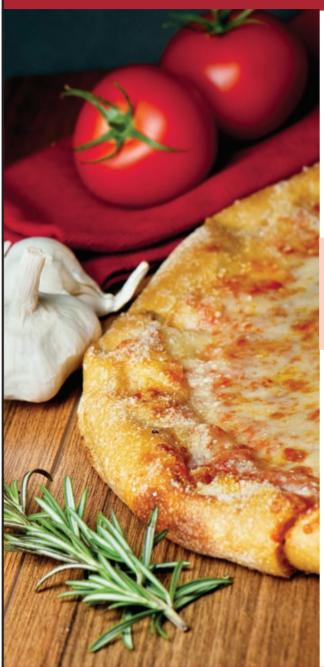
The Village of Crooksville will be holding the Community Celebration Day on June 25, 2022 and the annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 16th weather permitting. The Village Park and Pool is open to the public.

The 2022 Crooksville/ Roseville Pottery Festival will be held in the Roseville Park, July 14-16th. Check out their Facebook page. You won't want to miss the event.





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## Visit Northern Perry County!

#### Looking for something to do? Perry County has a lot to offer.

Buckeye Lake is on our Northwest border. There are trails to bike and hike on and boating in the summer months. There are restaurants and bars that offer great food and live music all around Buckeye Lake. We all need a place to relax after work or on the weekend, so why not do it at Horvath Harbor (horvathsharbor.com). It is our newest establishment on the lake. They are boat accessible in the East canal just past the Port.. During the summer month The Port Smokehouse is a great place to stop by and have the smoked meat of your choice (portsmokehousebuckeyelake.com).

Or feeling like a pizza, just around the corner (off SR 13) is Champs Pizza and Pub (www.champspizzaandpub.com). Champs offers a great selection of foods and drink and a friendly (Cheers like) atmosphere. Firehouse Pizza in downtown Thornville also offers dine-in or patio seating.

The music scene around the lake is wonderful and feature many local artists as well as bands from other areas.

Lake's End is located at 9075 Boundaries Rd, Thornville. Browse their selection of Oakley, Carhartt, Redwing Boots, Sperry, and more! They also offer a variety of safety apparel.

Thornville Hardware is located 9055 Boundaries Rd., Thornville. They carry all your hardware needs but also carry a selection of local made products such as candles, scent burners and maple products from MapleLine Farms.

Thornville has a unique 12-hole golf course, Whitetail Ridge. The Golf Course is set in the rolling hills of Thornville offering gorgeous views, a friendly staff, exceptional Club House and a fun test of golf! Check out their Facebook page for more information. Whitetail Ridge is located at 14005 Twp. Rd. 21, Thornville.

There are 2 nine hole courses in Perry County, Coyote Run, just off SR 13 and Perry Country Club on SR 13 just south of Somerset.



You may want to visit Vinberige Vineyards located just off St. Rt. 204 between Thornville and Glenford. Jennifer Boyle is the operation manager and vineyard manager along with being the winemaker. The winery is set in a beautiful brick farmhouse and the barn has become a venue for events and weddings. Vinberige Vineyards has been featured in Sip Magazine. Check out the website at www.vinberigevineyards.com.

The Mt. Perry Scenic Train, which is also known as the Zanesville & Western Railroad, is located at 5700 St. Rt. 204 in Mt. Perry, Ohio. The Mt. Perry Scenic Train provides a scenic destination in southeastern Ohio, offering train excursions on an exceptionally scenic and historic rail line known as the Glass Rock Spur. Silica sand from Central Silica Company in Glenford was used in the manufacturing of glass, pottery, dinnerware and fire brick and was transported on the railroad as recently as 25 years ago. Over 100 years ago, during the time when coal was mined in many areas of southeastern Ohio, it was part of the Zanesville & Western Railroad, known to locals then as the "Zigzag & Wobbly".

The ZWSR offers train rides from August through the last weekend in October and a Santa Train in December. A roundtrip ride takes about 40 minutes.

Checkout our website www.zwsr.org for the

schedule and to order tickets or the Facebook page Mt. Perry Scenic Train for numerous new special events planned in 2022. In addition, we're looking forward to the return of the Hobo Camp in August, Grassman Weekend in September, the Pumpkin Train in October, and the Santa Train in December.

The Scenic Railroad offers group rides for school or church groups, bus tours, and to host special events such as birthday parties, family outings, weddings and more. If you have questions about groups or special events, you can call 614-595-9701.

Glenford Fort is located off St Rt. 757. It's a hilltop ceremonial enclosure that encompasses beautifully forested slopes containing Native American Earthworks. It is believed to have been engineered 2,000 years ago by Native Americans belonging to the Hopewell Culture. It consists of a mile long wall that races the perimeter of a hill enclosing the flat hill top area, which encompasses 26 acres and a stone mound in the center approximately 100 ft in circumference and 11 feet high. (This mound is on private property). The fort is owned by the Perry Soil and Water Conservation District in cooperation with Arc of Appalachia, Heartland Earthworks Conservance, and the Perry County Historical and Cultural Arts Society. A permit is required to hike to the Glenford Fort. Contact the Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District at 740-743-1325.

#### Do you want to give Perry County Youth a chance to grow? Does your business need staff?



## Perry County's subsidized employment program may be able to help!

Hocking Athens Perry Community Action and Perry County Job & Family Services are seeking Perry County employers of all kinds to take part in our Subsidized Youth Employment Program.

For 8 weeks in the summer, Perry County youth learn directly from our community's shop owners, managers, and supervisors. This opportunity provides our youth with essential skills to succeed in the workforce. There are also opportunities for year-round placements.

If you are interested in becoming a worksite, please contact:

Jace Jackson (740) 721-0664 jacynta.jackson@hapcap.org





# Perry County's COVERED BRIDGES

#### GOWER ROAD, GLENFORD

East off Rt. 13 onto Rt. 204, 8 miles to Gower Road, and turn south on Gower Road. Bridge is 2 miles down Gower Road.

#### COOPERRIDER ROAD, GLENFORD

East off Rt. 13 onto Rt. 204, 8 miles to Gower Road. Turn south on Gower Road, then east onto Cooperrider Road. Bridge is ¼ mile down Cooperrider Road.

#### JACK'S HOLLOW BRIDGE

Turn west off Rt. 22, north onto Rt. 204, east on Gratiot Road, 2 miles to intersection of Gratiot Road, turn east 1½ miles north on Twp. Road 108 (Bridge is 1 mile).

#### ST. RT. 13 (PRIVATE PROPERTY)

10 miles south of I-70

## PERRY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, NEW LEXINGTON

24 miles south of I-70 on St. Rt. 13, turn west onto St. Rt. 37.

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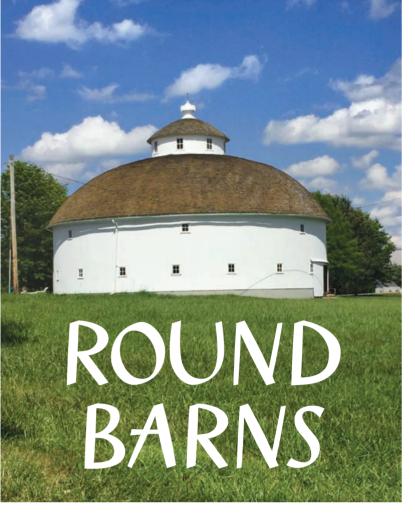
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#### The Old Gilmore Farm

Approximately ½ mile south of St. Rt. 13, three miles north of Somerset, on Reading Twp. Rd. 136 near the village of New Reading.

Built in 1917 and rebuilt after a fire in 1932; now owned by Robert Meutzel.

#### The Old Mott Thomas Farm

On Jackson Twp. Road 94-A, within sight of St. Rt. 37, 1 mile east of Junction City.

Built in 1908; now owned by the John McGaughey family.

#### The Old Evi Melick Farm

On Madison Twp. Road 95,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of US Rt. 22, 6 miles east of Somerset, near the village of Sego.

Built in 1927; owned by Neil Cooperrider.

#### The Old August Dornbirer Property

Off St. Rt. 204, west of Glenford (not visible from the road) Still in the family.

## BARN QUILTS

#### **Clay Center of Ohio**

7327 Ceramic Rd., Roseville

#### **Dennis & Marian DeRolph Farm**

4694 Hopewell Indian Rd, Glenford

#### Walter & Margie Esselstein Farm

2626 Jamestown Rd., Crooksville

#### **David & Louann Henderson Farm**

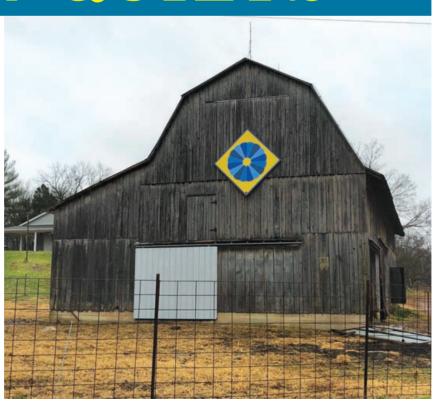
3098 US Hwy 22, Somerset

#### **Treg & Courtney Ulmer Farm**

1815 Glassrock Rd., Glenford

#### Wildwood Inn & Llama Farm

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## Churches throughout the County



St. Joseph Church, "Cradle of the Faith in Ohio" was the first Catholic church in the state. Dominican Father Edward Fenwick came from Kentucky to visit local Catholics for the first time in 1808. Led by Jacob Dittoe, six Catholic families bought this half section of land and built an 18 by 22-foot log church. Fenwick blessed the church on December 6, 1818. The church attracted German, Irish and Alsatia Catholic settlers and became the mission center for southern and eastern Ohio. The present structure, the third on the site, was dedicated in 1843 and rebuilt in 1866 after an 1864 fire.

#### **CENTRAL PERRY COUNTY AREA**

Bear Run Baptist Church Cornerstone Baptist First Church of God First United Methodist Church Grace Community Church of the Nazarene Holy Trinity Lutheran **Junction City United Methodist** Jehovah Witness Mount Zion United Brethren New Lex Baptist Church New Lebanon Lutheran New Lexington Bible Church New Lexington Christian Church **New Lexington Congregation** New Lexington Presbyterian Church Perry County Christian Center St. Patrick Ireland St. Rose of Lima South Main Church of Christ The Church at Perry County

Vineyard Christian Church

#### **SOUTHERN PERRY COUNTY AREA**

Bethany United Methodist Church
Church of Christ
Ebenezer Baptist Church
Hemlock Community Church
Millertown Church-Christ Christian Union
New Hope United Methodist Church
New Straitsville United Methodist Church
New Straitsville United Pentecostal
Oakfield Wesleyan Church
Saint Bernard of Clairvaux
Saint Vincent De Paul Society
Santoy Holiness Chapel
United Pentecostal Church

#### **NORTHERN PERRY COUNTY AREA**

Calvary Bible Fellowship Calvary Christian Union Church Community Free Will Baptist Church Fairfield Beach United Methodist Church Good Hope Lutheran Church Grace Lutheran Church Hopewell United Methodist Church Holy Trinity Church Catholic Church Maranatha Bible Church Mt. Perry Presbyterian Church Mt. Perry United Methodist Church New Life Apostolic Church Olivet Church of the Brethren Saint Paul's Lutheran Church Somerset Church of Christ Somerset United Methodist Church South Shore Ministries Spring Hills Community Church Saint Joseph Catholic Church Thornville United Methodist Church Tin Cup Ministries Tri-County Church of the Nazarene Trinity United Church of Christ Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Zion United Church of Christ

#### SOUTH CENTRAL PERRY COUNTY AREA

Christ's Church
Church of Christ
Church of Atonement
Crooksville Baptist
First Hope United Methodist
First United Methodist Church
Free Methodist Church
Iliff United Methodist
Maple Avenue Christian Church
New Hope United Methodist
Oakfield Baptist Church
Rhema House of Worship

## A Message for Every Perry County Business



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Our Recovery Friendly Workplaces program shows employers how to help people in recovery from drugs and alcohol to become valued employees.

#### Reach out to us today to learn how we can help you!





Perry County Home Farm Campus 5454 SR-37 New Lexington, Ohio 43764 (across from the Perry County Fairgrounds) @perryJFS





Tammy Goniea (740) 721-0674 or Tamara.goniea@jfs.ohio.gov

Perry County OhioMeansJobs is a part of the Perry County Job and Family Services Team

#### Finding dedicated employees is tough.

But employing Perry County people who want to rebuild their lives through work can be an answer.

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Become a Perry County Recovery Friendly Workplace and get connected to able workers recovering from addiction. Become a Perry County Recovery Friendly Workplace and...

- Tap into a pool of workers who can be loyal, competent and resilient.
- Get guidance from our recovery and employment experts on best practices for hiring and retaining workers in recovery.
- Let our community know you're on the front line of helping individuals, as well as contributing to make Perry County more prosperous and secure.
- Know that your workers have supportive partners with Perry County OhioMeansJobs and local treatment providers who will do everything possible to support their successful recovery.
- Because gainful employment is so important for a person in recovery, you can make a difference in people's lives.
- · It costs nothing to become a Perry County Recovery Friendly Workplace.

Especially if your business is already employing recovering workers, contact us. Besides recognition, there can be many benefits to your business for the effort you're already making.







It costs nothing to become a Perry County Recovery Friendly Workplace. To learn more call me today! Tammy Goniea at 740-721-0674, or tamara.goniea@jfs.ohio.gov





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Perry County OhioMeansJobs is a part of the Perry County Job and Family Services Team



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# The Perry County Park District welcomes you to Perry County!

he Park District serves the interests of our diverse community through nature education and stewardship programs. Additionally, we provide support for recreation, natural area preservation, conservation, and historic and cultural opportunities throughout the county.

Perry County is waiting for your next outdoor adventure! From State and National Forests with miles of multiuse trails to municipal, county and community parks offering active and passive recreation opportunities, there is something for everyone.

The Park District Board of Park Commissioners meet monthly and the public is invited to attend. Throughout the year, our board meetings move to various locations around the county to provide opportunity for engagement and input from local residents and community leaders. Some of the locations for 2022 include Glenford, Corning, New Lexington, Thornville, Shawnee, Junction City, Somerset and more!

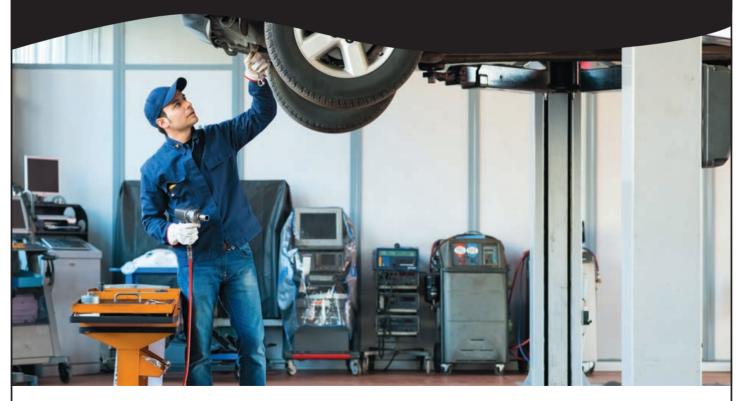
Visit our website for information on parks, upcoming programs and events, and to see when a board meeting will be held near you! www.PCparkdistrict.com



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## Perry County Parks



## Buckeye Lake Fairfield Beach

Beach, playground, fishing, boating

## Congo Park

## Corning Altier Park

Corning Ball Fields
Baseball Fields (3)

#### Crooksville

## **Crooksville Village Park**Football field, swimming pool, shelter houses, pond, trail

**Old School Drive Park** Skateboarding

## Reed's Station Park South Park

#### Glenford

Henderson Park Playground

Lions Club Park Walking trail

**Shelly Park** 

Hemlock
Hemlock Park

## Junction City Junction City Park

SR 37

Playground, shelter house, baseball fields

#### New Lexington

#### **Arethusa Springs Park**Orchard Avenue

Trail, playground, tennis courts,

swimming pool, disc golf, shelter houses

#### **Ball's Court**

**Summit Street**Basketball, swings

#### **Broadway Park**

Broadway & Madison Basketball, playground

#### **Lewis's Court**

Eastern Avenue Basketball

#### MacGahan Park

Main Street Seating, shade

#### **Monument Square Park**

Main Street Monument

#### New Lexington Reservoir

Palmer Road Lake, fishing, canoeing

#### **Tile Plant Road**

Black Gold Road Splash pad, ball field, trail, playground, fishing, shelter house

#### New Straitsville

#### Veterans Memorial Park

SR 93

Memorial, shelter house, playground

#### Robinson's Cave & Museum

SR 93

Cave & museum

#### Perry County

**Ceramic Center** 

SR 93

Camping, hiking

#### **Glenford Fort**

SR 757

Historical American Indian

#### **Gun Club**

TR

Camping, fishing, boating

#### Perry State Forest

#### Lakes: Buckeye, Essington, Miles

SR 345

Hiking, Biking, ATV, horse trails

#### Roseville

#### Roseville Village Park – Melicks Grove

Skateboard park, trail, playground, fruit trees, berries, basketball court, ball fields

#### **Patriot Park**

#### Roseville Conservancy Park

#### Shawnee

#### **Basketball Court**

Main Street Basketball

#### **East Side Park**

Iron Point Rd

Shelter house, playground, ball field

#### Miner's Memorial Park

Main Street Memorial

**West Side Park** 

#### **Tecumseh Lake**

SR 93

Lake, picnic area

#### Somerset

#### **Clouse Lake**

TR

Lake, fishing, hiking

#### **Finck's Nature Preserve**

Finck's Spring Dr., SR 22 Hiking

#### St. Joseph Lake

TR 145

Fishing, hiking, boating

#### Somerset Memorial Park

Mike Clouse Drive
Ball fields, basketball,
swimming pool,
track, playground, shelter
houses,
community garden

#### Thornville

#### Jake Shaner Memorial Park

Park Drive

Playground, Basketball, Baseball, Shelter house, Children's garden

#### 19th Century Veterans Park

W. Columbus Street
Memorial

#### **Thornville Pool**

130 Clum Drive Swimming Pool, kids pool

#### Thornville Twp.

#### **Lilly Pad Park**

Playground, Shelter house

#### Wayne National Forest

**Monday Creek** 

**Begley Connector Park** 

New Straitsville Trailhead

#### Stone Church Camp

Campground, horse trails

## State Parks, Lakes & Trails

#### **BUCKEYE LAKE STATE PARK**

is the largest lake in the region at 3,100 acres. There are several miles of developed shore line and it is a popular destination for boating, skiing, fishing and sailing. The Fairfield Beach area on the south shore has access to Buckeye Lake State Park with a boat ramp, shore fishing, picnic shelter, public beach and playground.

#### **BUCKEYE TRAIL, NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL** enters

the region at the northeast section of Burr Oak State park and follows the lake shore south and east around to Tom Jenkins Dam. Primitive camping is offered at Dock 2 and 3 campgrounds (fee required) while in the State Park.

#### **BURR OAK STATE PARK** is a

peaceful paradise with a 664 acre lake and several miles of undeveloped forested shore line. Burr Oak has 2 marinas and 4 boat launches. There are 25 miles of hiking, backpacking and bridle trails. The access to the state park campground, public beach, and Dock 4 marina is located on St. Rt. 13, 4 miles south of Corning.

**RUSH CREEK LAKE** is a quiet retreat for boating and fishing. The lake is 289 acres with 10 miles of undeveloped shoreline. The lake has populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, redear sunfish, channel catfish, white and black crappie and carp. There is one boat ramp on the west of the lake. Rush Creek Lake is great place for canoes, kayaks, and small sailboats. Access to Rush Creek Lake is located 1.5 miles north on County Road 74

off of US 22, 6 miles west of Somerset.

#### STONE CHURCH HORSE CAMP AND TRAIL is named

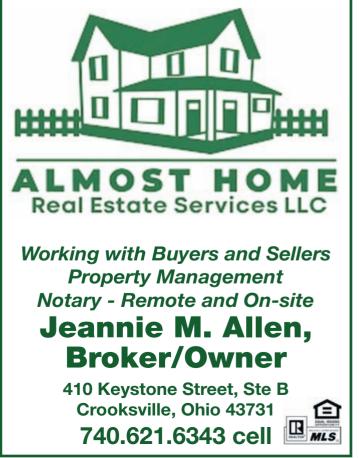
for the skeletal ruins of an old stone church nearby. This horse camp and trail system provides a camp specifically for equestrians and 21 miles of scenic riding. Trail system is also open to hiking and has connection points to the Buckeye Trail and North Country Trail. GPS Lat/Long coordinates for the main campground are 39 deg 36' 34.59" / 82 deg 14' 28.76".

#### WILDCAT HOLLOW backpacking trail

is a 15 mile loop trail with a cross-over trail creating a shorter 5 mile loop for day hikes. This trail offers a wonderful variety of native wildflowers, creek beds, forested hill and meadows. GPS Lat/Long coordinates for the trailhead are 39 deg 34' 22" / 82 deg 01' 58".

Information from Perry County Outdoor Recreation Flyer, 2015





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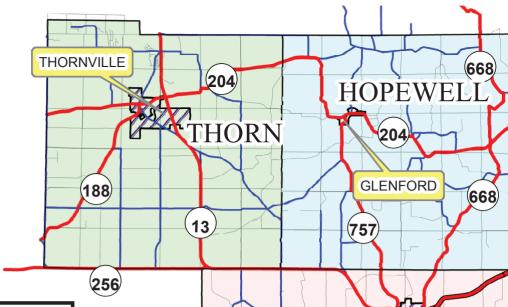
**Nicole Schwoegl**Insurance Office Professional nicole.schwoegl@thrivent.com

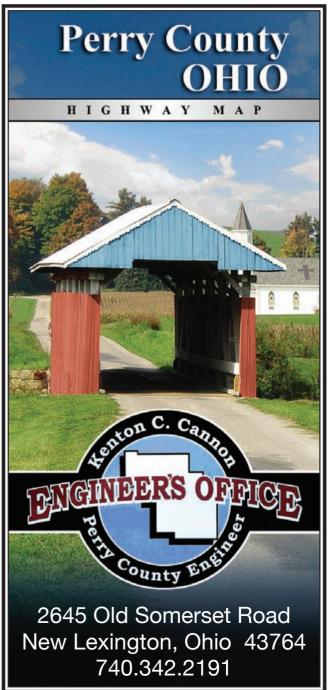
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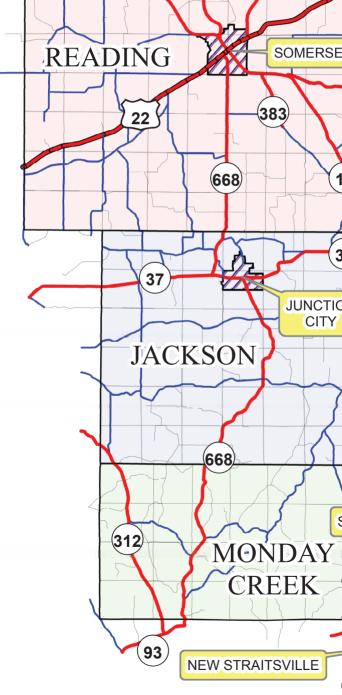
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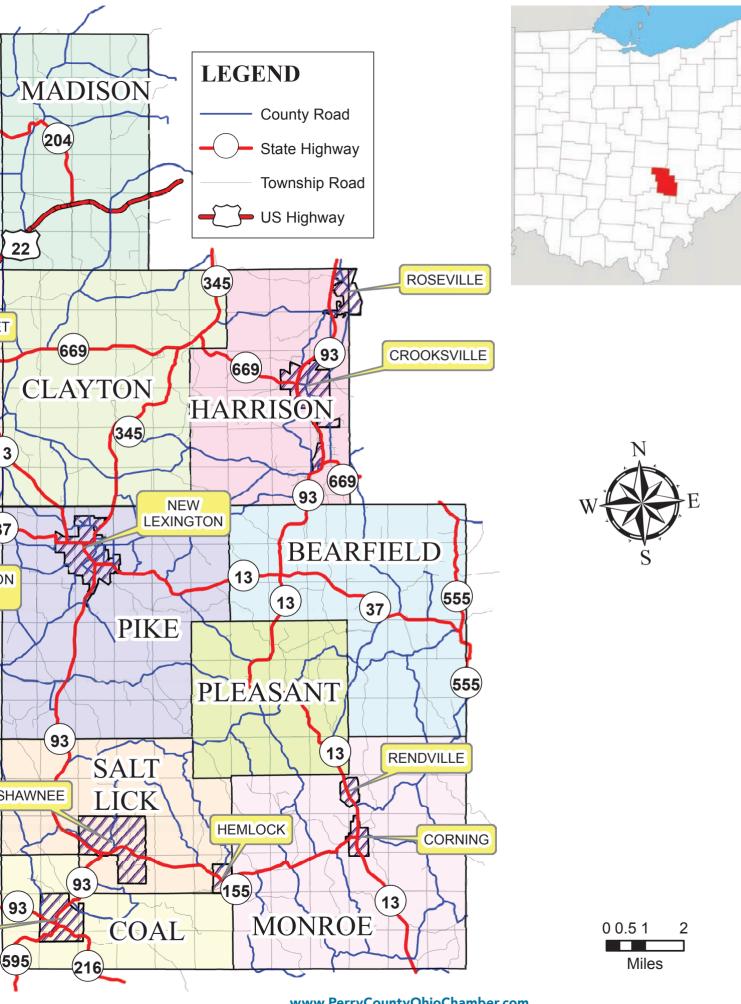
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20328 R1-21









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## Destinations

## ATV Trails

Begleys Campground 214 Main St., New Straitsville

**Perry State Forest** St. Rt. 345, New Lexington

Tecumseh Trails 8621 St. Rt. 155 SE, Hemlock

Wayne National Forest St. Rt. 595 (2 miles south of New Straitsville)

## Campgrounds

Begleys Campground 214 Main St, New Straitsville

Burr Oak State Park 10200 Burr Oak Lodge, Glouster

## Golf Courses

Coyote Run Golf Course 8515 Twp. Rd. 2A,Thornville

Perry Country Club 5111 St. Rt. 13, New Lexington

Whitetail Ridge Golf Course 14005 Township Rd 21, Thornville

## Lodging

Relax Inn 7125 St. Rt. 37, New Lexington

Victoria's Wedding & Reception (Cabins) 3250 US Highway 22 NW, Somerset

Wildwood Inn Bed & Breakfast & Llama Farm 6345 Township Rd 134 SE, New Straitsville

## SOUTHERN PERRY INCUBATION CENTER FOR ENTREPRENUERS

SPICE is located in Southern Perry

County. We offer low interest loans to income eligible entrepreneurs in Perry
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#### SOUTHERN PERRY BUSINESS CENTER

The SPBC offers a variety of design and print services. A few examples are:

- · Website Design Services & Graphic Design
- · Flyers / Posters / Business Cards / Rack Cards
- · Invitations / Stationary / Greeting Cards
- · Brochures / Booklets / Programs
- · Stationary / Event Tickets / Labels
- · Photo Editing / Calendars
- · Branding & Logo Development
- · And More!

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#### SPICE'S MISSION

SPICE's mission is to create economic growth in Perry County by supporting entrepreneurial activities that target and assist low to moderate income individuals. Specifically the SPICE Microenterprise Program helps to create jobs by addressing and eliminating barriers to self sufficiency.

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## VETERANS MEMORIALS

Throughout Perry County you can visit the following Monuments and memorials honoring those who have served, have perished and those still serving our Country.

#### **New Lexington**

Monument Square, Corner of Broadway & N. Main Street

- Appreciation to Donors Monument
- Desert Storm Monument
- 30th Ohio Volunteers of War of 1861
- Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Monument
- Vietnam Memorial

#### **Thornville**

St. Rt. 188 and 204, behind the village building

19th Century and 20th Century Veterans Monuments

#### Moxahala

Rt. 13, across from the Post Office WWII Veterans of Pleasant Township Monument

#### **Corning**

Main St., St. Rt. 155 and St. Rt. 13 WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Veterans Monument

#### **Somerset**

Center of Somerset, St. Rt. 13 and 22 General Philip Sheridan, Civil War Monument

Somerset Park WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan Monuments

#### Roseville

Veterans Memorial honoring all who have served, all who have perished and all still serving

#### Crooksville

S. Buckeye Street in front of the City Building

WWI Monument, the Rosser Family Memorial and a Memorial for the Korean War Dead

Village Park
In Honor of those Who Served

#### Shawnee

Memorial Park on Main Street Veterans of Saltlick Township

#### **New Straitsville**

Center of New Straitsville on St. Rt. 93 & 216

Veterans of Wars, Presidents, POW, MIA, and US Marines Monument

## Perry County Veterans Service Commission

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30pm (Closed the last Monday of each month.)

Financial Assistance 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Claims by appointment

128 S. Main St., New Lexington

(740) 342-2536

Email: pcvets@perrycountyohio.net

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PerryCountyVeteransOffice



## Perry County



"Serving an Ageless Community"









#### You are invited to join

#### **The Perry County Health Network**

**What:** An organization consisting of various organizations, businesses and individuals from, in and around Perry County who are dedicated to the betterment of ALL Perry County Residents and Serving an Ageless Community

**When:** The Fourth Monday of each month at Noon No May or December Meeting

Where: The Top Hat Restaurant Meeting Room, Junction City

**Why:** To make our community better, we need and want your imput!

Meetings are open to the public

For more information, please contact David Weber at 740.974.0680

## Mt. Airy Outdoor Adventures

#### Coming Spring 2022!

Perry County is rich in natural scenery, businesses and people. Mt. Airy Outdoor Adventures the brainchild of Ben and Katrina Carpenter, of Somerset, will begin operating soon to promote those assets. Their Outdoor adventure packages will consist of curated tours, taking people outdoors and off road. The Carpenter duo will guide groups of 6-10 passengers in a customized 4x4 E350 overland touring van.

Ben and Katrina have both spent a career in Conservation, and Natural Resources. Katrina Carpenter has worked as Education Specialist with Perry County Waste Reduction and Recycling since 2007 and holds an associate degree in Recreation & Wildlife Management- Interpretive Methods from Hocking College, a bachelor's degree in Conservation Education & Mgmt. from OU. She has worked as a Soil and Water Conservation technician and educator; high school vo. ed. natural resources & environmental technology instructor; and forest/ wildlife conservation and forest technician. She also worked as a naturalist/ interpretative guide and technician with Stark County Park District and Providence Metroparks/ Isaac Ludwig Mill. Katrina will finish her professional career in June 2022 working in a position that encourages everyone to WASTE LESS and Recycle RIGHT for the good of future generations!

Ben Is a US Marine Corps Veteran with an associate degree in Parks Recreation and Wildlife from Zane State, and a bachelor's degree from OSU majoring in Agronomy and Agricultural Business. Ben's professional career includes working 31 years with the local Soil and Water Conservation District as a Technician and Administrator, managing the operations and staff. In 2016 Ben retired from the SWCD to continue his public service to Perry County as Perry County Commissioner.

Over the past 20+ years, the Carpenters have developed the Mt. Airy Beef brand as they worked toward evolving their farm into a sustainable grass cow/calf operation. They have brought soil erosion rates on the farm

to near zero, raising Texas Longhorn and Black Angus Cattle. They market much of their beef through their Mt. Airy Beef Food Truck. Combined: Katrina and Ben bring to their new enterprise, over 60 years of combined educational, interpretive, and agriculture experience to make each tour enjoyable, entertaining and educational.

#### Possible tours will include:

#### WETLANDS AND LONGHORNS ADVENTURE

Adventures will begin with a short drive through scenic Perry County experiencing historic covered bridges to our 18-acre wetland, where we will explore and experience wetland ecosystems, bottom land forests and Jonathan creek ecology experiences. Short nature walks and hands on activities will be available. From there we will travel to the Mt. Airy Beef farm, where we will drive among the herd of Texas Longhorn cattle, with discussions about cattle, conservation practices and the attributes of our grass-fed cattle, with lunch provided at the farm.

#### KAYAKING AND CANOEING ADVENTURE

Adventures will begin with a short drive through scenic Perry County experiencing historic covered bridges to our 18-acre wetland; where we will explore and experience wetland ecosystems, by enjoyably floating the wetland at your leisure in canoes or kayaks. Canoes, kayaks, paddles and PFDs are provided. Short nature walks and hands-on activities will also be available in the bottom land forest and Jonathan creek. From there we will travel to the Mt. Airy Beef farm for lunch.

#### STAR GAZING AND S'MORES ADVENTURE

Adventures involve a scenic drive to a secluded location free from manmade lighting so we can see and enjoy the

www.PerryCountyOhioChamber.com

night sky and night sounds. Mats will be provided so we can lay on the ground and view the stars and engage in the history and folk lore of the night sky. If conditions are right Katrina will regale us, as she calls in owls for us to delight on their chorus of night sounds. Once our eyes have adjusted to natural darkness and we have enjoyed the night sky, we will ruin our night vision with a fire to enjoy some s'mores!

#### GROW IT IN PERRY COUNTY ADVENTURE

Adventures involve a scenic drive through Perry County visiting local Perry County producers that grow fruits, vegetables, and flowers as well as producers that raise livestock. Specific stops will vary depending on the availability of our partnering producers. The adventure will end at the Mt. Airy Beef farm, where we will drive among the herd of Texas Longhorn cattle, with discussions about cattle, conservation practices and the attributes of our grass-fed cattle, then end with lunch at Mt. Airy Beef. This is our version of a shopping tour. Our goal is to promote growers and producers around Perry County.

#### STANDUP PADDLE BOARDING, SUP ADVENTURE

Ben and Katrina are both certified SUP instructors. Our adventure will begin with a short drive together from Somerset to Rush Creek Lake where we will provide Standup Paddle Boarding instructions. Boards, paddles and PFD's will be provided. There is no charge for the use of the SUP's. They are provided by the Perry Soil and Water Conservation District for educational programs. After some instructional time, participants are free to paddle and explore the beautiful Rush Creek Lake at your leisure. Upon returning to Somerset each participant will receive a gift certificate for dinner at one of Somerset's participating Restaurants.

Look for us this Spring!



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#### Perry County Supports the Arts!

# PCCAC 2022 EVENTS

Check out all the Perry County Cultural Arts Center Events we're offering this year.

Visit pccac.org for information and to register for events.















#### Somerset Artist Co-Op Ceramic Egg Painting For Kids

MARCH 6 • 2 PM

Display of goods, brochures, and a stained glass demonstration.

Donations only.

### Calling All Artists! Art Show APRIL 3 • 2-5 PM

Artists will pay \$10 for a space and will be selling their work.

"More Tea Anyone" Mystery Dinner Play
APRIL 30 AT 6 PM & MAY 1 AT 2 PM • \$25

#### June/July Summer Arts Workshops (TBA)

Featuring: Musical "Hansel and Gretel"

## Summer Arts Showcase and Art Auction AUGUST 7 • 2 PM

Free to the Public

#### Janesville & Western Scenic Railroad, Mt. Perry

SEPT 24 & 25 • NOON-1-2-3-4

Ages 3-15 \$5 • 16 & older \$8 www.zwsr.org

#### Chinese Auction

OCT. 2 • 2 PM AT PACAC

Please take donations to Ogden Insurance

#### A Salute To Veterans

NOV. 20 • 1 PM

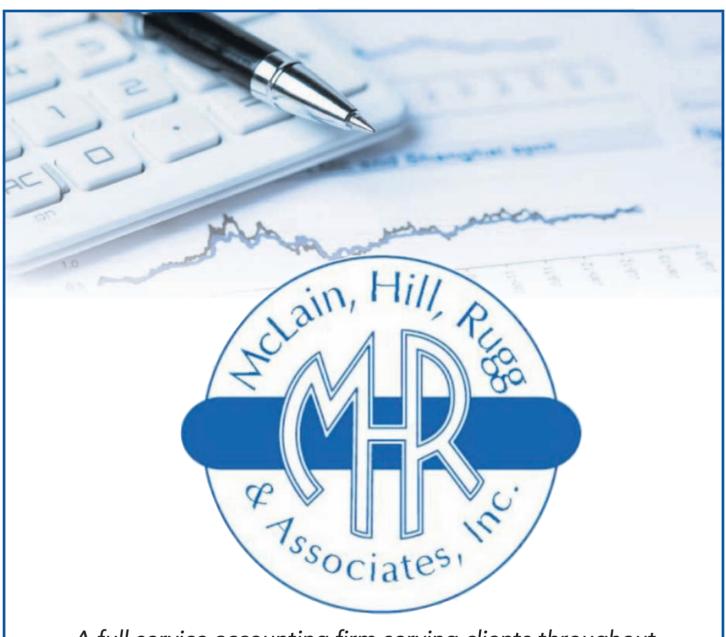
Pizza & Program
Free to Veterans & their families

#### New Lexington Christmas Walk

**DEC. 2 • 7 PM** 

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (across from the post office) upstairs

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# Perry County District Library 2022 Calendar of Events

variety of programs and activities are scheduled throughout the year at Perry County District Library. New offerings are added to the calendar regularly, so check often for events and registration information. A complete calendar of events can be found at www.pcdl.org or on the library mobile app found in your app store under SEO Libraries App.

# Here is a glimpse of planned programs and events for 2022:

**Storytime Programs** (all locations) are planned for April, June, July and September. Spring Storytimes will begin the week of April 3rd (4-week session), Summer Storytimes will begin the week of June 5th (6-week session), and Fall Storytimes will begin the week of September 11th (4-week session).

**Teen Book Club** is held January – October (Junction City Branch) from 3:30-4:30 on the first Wednesday of the month.

Adult Book Club is held January – October at the Main Library in New Lexington from 3:30-4:30 on the last Wednesday of the month.

**Knitting Club** is held January – December at the Main Library in New Lexington from 5:30-6:30 on the second Wednesday of the month.

**Dungeons & Dragons Club** is held on Mondays at 4:30 p.m. Currently this is held at the Main Library in New Lexington and registration is required.

**Earth Day Celebration** will be held at Mt. Aloysius and feature the Banana Slug String Band from California! The library staff will team up with Perry County Waste, Reduction & Recycling and many other agencies for this celebration on Monday, April 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Summer Reading Programs** (all locations) for children, tweens (ages 9-12), teens, and adults will begin the week of June 5th.

Family Nights are scheduled throughout the year and fun for the entire family! Join us for a Baby Shark Themed Family Night featuring Celebrity Readers on Tuesday, June 7, at 6 p.m. A live production of The Little Mermaid featuring Bright Star Touring Theatre will be held Tuesday, July 5, at 6 p.m. Both of these outdoor events will be held at the Main Library in New Lexington. Spring and fall family night events will also be posted. Details coming soon.

**Adult Winter Reading Program** will be December 5, 2022 – January 14, 2023.

In addition, **Grab-n-Go Activity Kits** are offered monthly for all ages. Visit the library website or follow the library on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for the most up-to-date information and details.

# Chamber Opportunities & Events

he Chamber has not been able to hold the Annual Groundhog Breakfast for the last two years due to Covid. We are planning some new events for 2022. Watch our Facebook Page for more information on a Spring Event, Scare Crow Contest and our Annual Golf Outing that will be held in May.

We are moving our annual banquet to fall instead of spring. We have not held

the banquet for the last two years because of Covid. In the two previous years Covid numbers have risen in winter and early spring so we are trying to change our plans accordingly.

The following businesses were nominated by fellow Chamber Members and the Chamber Board of Directors made the final selections on the recipients of the 2019 Business Awards as follows:

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**Auto Obsessions** 

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Champs Pizza and Pub

**LARGE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**Rhodes Manufacturing

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD
Mount Aloysius

# A Little History of PERRY COUNTY!

erry County occupies that portion of Ohio bounded on the north by Licking and Muskingum counties, on the east by Muskingum and Morgan counties, on the south by Athens and Hocking counties, and on the west by Fairfield County. It is therefore in the eastern and southern part of the State.

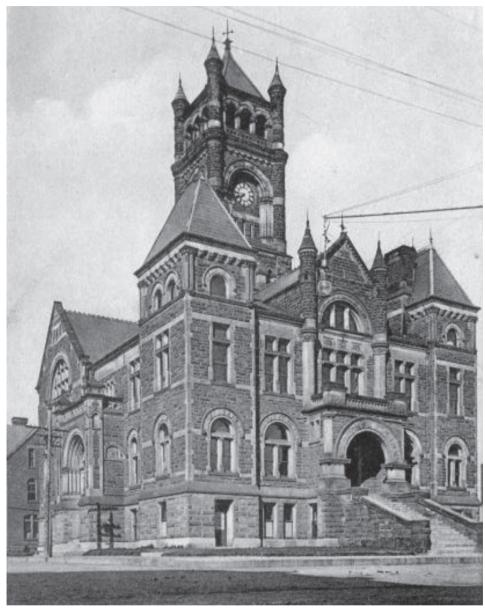
The landscape is a varied one. There are no mountains, and no plains, but in the southern portion there are many lofty hills and narrow valleys. North of New Lexington the country is rolling, and presents charming vistas.

This section of the county is better adapted to agriculture than the more rugged; hence, well cultivated farms and attractive buildings delight the eye.

Far back, beyond the memory of men, and even traditions, a race of people lived here before the red man. These were the Mound Builders. They left no records, save apparently imperishable memorials in the form of mounds and earthworks. More than one hundred of these may be found in the county, the most wonderful being the "Stone Fort," at Glenford.

Archaeologists from all over the world have visited this famous spot. It is constructed entirely of stone, and occupies an area of 27 acres. Originally, the walls were 10 feet high. The entire length of the rampart is 6,611 feet. In the exact center within is a stone mound 100 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. Near by is the Wilson Mound, and east of Glenford is the Roberts Mound, 27 feet high and 120 feet in diameter. South of Glenford is a circle 650 feet in circumference, 31 feet wide and 4 feet high. Within is a well-defined bird with outspread wings. The bird is 48 feet long. One wing 111 and the other 122 feet wide. In Thorn Township are three circles, twenty-two mounds, one enclosure and one village site.

Hopewell Township has ten mounds; Madison, thirty-one; Reading, fifteen; Clayton, four; Jackson, two and one village site; Pike has three earthmounds; Saltlick, one; Monday Creek, three mounds and one village site; Monroe, one earth-mound and one stone, and Harrison five earth-mounds.



Many of these mounds have been explored. Human bones, trinkets, implements, earthen- and silverware have been found, but no tablets containing written characters or hieroglyphics—nothing to show who the Mound Builders were, or in what age they lived. If they left other than the monuments noted, these have perished. It is certain, however, that human ingenuity of high order planned, and skilled human hands constructed, these works of earth and stone. To the reader is left the task of determining the solution of the origin of the Mound Builders. They lived in Perry County. They antedated the Indian.

The first white man in Perry County

was Christopher Gist. In 1751 he spent a few days on the shores of Buckeye Lake, near Thornport. In 1773, Lewis Wetzel and Simon Girty were visitors in the county, but it was not until 1800 that any permanent white settlements were attempted.

In 1801 George Arnold had entered land in Reading Township, which he afterwards sold to Christian Binckley, great-grandfather of Assistant Secretary of State, Thomas D. Binckley. By 1802, others began to take up land, among whom was Peter Overmyer. Robert Colborn settled east of Somerset, while George Bowman located on West Rush Creek.

By degrees, settlements began to appear.

The forests were cut away and the log house rose in the clearing. In those days there were no highways, no railroads, no traction lines, no flour mills, no stores, no telephones, no "New Lexington Herald" to tell of the fat calf and the fine wheat your neighbor raised. December 26, 1817, is the date given which marks the official organization of Perry County. It is the fifty-second in order, and was created from parts of territory of Washington, Muskingum and Fairfield. The residence of Thomas Mains Somerset, was

used as the first courthouse. Towns began to develop; the cross-roads store, the watermill, the blacksmith shop and the church edifice made buildings enough for a village.

Hanover was platted in 1804, but it never had an official existence. New Reading, in Reading Township, first called Overmyer Settlement, is the oldest town in the county, and at one time a warm competitor for the county seat. Somerset was settled in 1804, and was called Middletown. Thornville became a town in 1811.

Rehoboth was laid out, in 1815, by Eli Gardner, who provided an ample public square, and, when the time came, what is now "The Deserted Village" was a formidable rival for the county seat. Losing the contest for the shire town, its ambitious citizens turned to the culture of tobacco, and, it is said, raised a brand the chewing and smoking of which helped mightily to assuage the grief for the lost court-house.

Source: Newlexingtonohio.gov/history

# MOONSHINE CAPITAL of OHIO

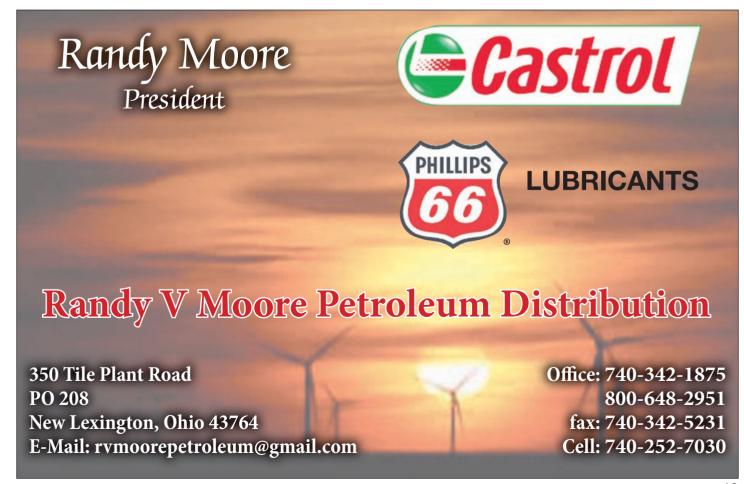
fter the fires started in the mines, the old timers had no income so they took to bootlegging during the depression. In the 1930s New Straitsville made the finest sipping whiskey available in the United States.

Of 42 stills taken into Perry County Court, 37 were from New Straitsville. New Straitsville, The Appalachia Rural Community nestled in Wayne National Forest commemorates those past days with a "Moonshine Festival."

The Moonshine Festival is held over Memorial Weekend every year. The 51st Moonshine Festival will be held on May 27-30 2022 with carnival rides, flea market, food vendors, music, car show, tractor pull and ending with a Memorial Day Parade. For more information contact rspicer@live.com or visit OFEA website or the Moonshine Festival Facebook page.

# THE 51<sup>ST</sup> MOONSHINE FESTIVAL

will be held May 27-30, 2022 with carnival rides, flea market, food vendors, music, car show, tractor pull and ending with a Memorial Day Parade.





## Perry County District Library

"A house without books is like a room without windows." -Horace Mann

- Library Cards are FREE for all ages
- Free Wi-Fi (inside & outside)
- Mobile Hotspot and Adaptive Toy lending programs
- Online resources available anywhere with Internet access
- Variety of materials & programs for all ages!
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
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Corning

Crooksville

Junction City

**New Lexington** 

Somerset

Thornville













#### **Bookmobile coming Summer 2022!**

Bookmobile funded in part by the State Library of Ohio with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services

www.pcdl.org

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# Perry County working to become A BIGGER TOURIST DESTINATION

ompared to its southern neighbor Hocking County, Perry County is not as well-known as a tourist destination. Yet the two counties are comparable in the beauty of their great outdoors, and Perry County offers a number of attractions and annual events that can make a visit here well worthwhile.

There are plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities such as hunting, hiking, biking, camping and ATV riding, and there are also many local festivals and other fun events that celebrate the region's cultural heritage.

"If you're going on a fall leaf tour, I don't see where there's much difference in

the two counties – it's just as pretty here as it is there," observes Kim Barnhart of the Perry County Chamber of Commerce. And while historically Perry has not been as oriented toward tourism as the Hocking Hills, there have recently been some promising developments along those lines, she notes. So in addition to the already existing attractions the county has to offer a visitor, there are some exciting new ones in the pipeline as well.

And if more tourists come to Perry County, they will find a number of existing businesses that could make their stay more enjoyable, including some unique restaurants and bars, as well as handy places to shop, pick up supplies for the visit, or just experience. Barnhart said these existing businesses and organizations are well placed to benefit from a rise in tourists coming to the county.

"That's our goal, is that other businesses will get the spillover from these other types of things," she said. "So maybe people will come to do the ATV rentals, and then they will see Little Italy Pizza (in New Straitsville). Or they will stop at the French café up at Somerset, or they will see the Gypsy Hawaii shop, or the Midwestern Second Hand shop, or Sophie's Tea Room. That's our goal – that

by bringing people in for one thing, that other businesses will prosper from it as well. We're trying to create different destinations."

One promising initiative has come from Black Diamond Development, LLC, a company that has already invested heavily in efforts to revitalize the Shawnee area. In addition to its projects in that part of the county, which include the Black Diamond Tavern, and plans for a campground, a brewery, an outfitter, and vacation rentals, the company recently announced that it is setting up a non-profit regional visitors' bureau.

When the company began to investigate the tourism market for the region, it learned that the economic impact of tourism dollars for Perry County was \$13.7 million, putting it near the very bottom of the list of Ohio's 88 counties. (Hocking County's number, by contrast, \$161.7 million.) When Black Diamond discovered that Perry County did not have a recognized visitors bureau, it made the decision to provide the initial funding for a full-time director, and set up the bureau in the historic Dishon building on Main Street in Shawnee.

Breanna Kitchen, who will serve as the bureau's director, said she's already investigating grant opportunities and exploring options to "really start promoting Perry County across forums."

### SOUTHERN PERRY COUNTY

The southern part of the county is home to the villages of Shawnee, Junction City, Rendville, Corning and New Straitsville. It offers a number of attractions in the way of outdoorsy activities and local festivals, and has recently seen some very exciting new developments as well.

As both mayor of Shawnee and owner of the business Shawnee Mercantile, Beverly Trovato has played an active role in trying to invigorate the tourist trade in her part of the county. "We've been working on being a destination ourselves," she explained. "We have what we call a trail towns group, that includes all the non-profit groups that have come together to work towards that."

One of the perennial attractions is Shawnee's Second Saturday event. "We'll



Somerset Artists' Co-Op

start those back up in May," Trovato said.
"They're the second Saturday of the month from May through October. They start at 6 o'clock. We have live entertainment on the street. We shut down West Main Street and bring in food trucks; we have a beer garden. And normally it's local entertainment, though we have had acts from like, Columbus or Athens County. We put tables and chairs up in the middle of the street, and we have artists and others set up, and it's just a good time."

The village also hosts a First Friday farmer's market May through October, which Trovato said runs from 5-7 p.m. She noted that with the help of the nonprofit Rural Action, the group has recently received a \$267,000 USDA grant to expand the farmer's market.

Other current attractions in southern Perry County include a stretch of the Buckeye Trail, the 1,444 mile long hiking trail that winds around the state of Ohio, and comes through the county. The Buckeye Trail Association (https://www.buckeyetrail.org/bta.php), which manages the trail, has its headquarters in Shawnee. The BTA is also working to create a 90-mile backpacking destination in the Wayne National Forest.

Lake Tecumseh is located outside Shawnee. This man-made lake was created to provide drinking water to the village, and also, according to the website ohioswindingroad.org, to help bring community residents together across a religious divide. The project was spearheaded by two religious leaders from local protestant and Catholic churches respectively, and was built using all volunteer labor from both religious camps. The lake was dedicated in 1952. It sits on the site of the old Double X Mine. Both the Buckeye Trail and North Country Scenic Trail are accessible from Tecumseh Lake.

Shawnee is also home to the Tecumseh Theatre, which is in the National Register of Historic Places District in Shawnee, Ohio. This historic opera house was built in 1908 and saved from the wrecking ball in 1976. The outside of the building has been completely renovated and the interior is due for a makeover as well.

One odd and interesting site to visit is Robinson's Cave, a 1,000-square-foot cavern located south of New Straitsville, which was used beginning around 1870 by large groups of Hocking Valley coal miners for secret labor-organizing meetings. In fact, Robinson's Cave is referred to as the secret birthplace of the United Mine Workers.

Local festivals on offer in southern Perry County include the renowned annual New Straitsville Moonshine Festival, which this year will take place May 27-30, and which celebrates "Straitsville Special," a potent illegal brew that was distilled in those parts back in the day. According to the website explorehockinghills.com, the Moonshine Festival is the only event which, since 1971, has had a (temporary) permit to make the product. It also features free live entertainment, amusement rides, carnival-style food and beverages, and a parade down Main Street.

One good source for information on festivals and similar events, expecially those with an historic or regional culture slant, is the Little Cities of Black Diamonds (lcbdohio.org), an organization whose state mission is to "keep alive the past stories and traditions of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds Region and through our history, culture and environment help enrich the future quality of life in the region."

Black Diamond Development, LLC, as mentioned, has a number of projects in the works to invigorate tourism in southern Perry County, details of which can be found at https://www.blackdiamonddev. com/. They include the Black Diamond Tavern, which opened in a renovated Shawnee building over 140 years old; the Black Diamond Brewery & Distillery, set to open in spring of this year; Black Diamond Campground, which will be a full-service, 400-site camp featuring a store, ice cream parlor, and car wash; Black Diamond Outfitters, which will rent golf carts and electric bikes; and six vacation rentals.

Another new project is an ATV rental business (and more) located in New Straitsville. Rich Workman of Bigfoot ATV Adventures + said the company expects to "go full bore" by April 1, offering both ATV rentals and guided hiking tours. It also has plans to open a clubhouse, which, in keeping with the company's Bigfoot theme, will be called the Squatch. "Inside there will be showers and so forth," Workman said. "We have two cabins that are there already, and we'll probably build another one there, or bring another one in, and have like a Bigfoot beer garden."

The company also plans eventually to offer a lodge that will sleep 12 to 15 people, which will be housed in a large renovated home.

#### NORTHERN PERRY COUNTY

The northern part of the county includes the villages of Somerset, Glenford, Thornville, Roseville and Crooksville.

One major attraction of the northern part of the county is Buckeye Lake State Park, located on its northwest border. They've got boating and other water activities, and every year the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce holds a Winterfest event. This is an enormously good time, featuring music, dancing, fireworks, a "polar plunge" into the freezing lake, and a Groundhog's Day-style weather prediction by a fish named Benny the Bass (he even has his own theme song), who tells you whether or not there will be six more weeks of winter or an early spring, based on whether he eats a minnow in the three minutes he's allotted in which to do so.

Also popular is the annual Crooksville-Roseville Pottery Festival, whose 56th installment will be held July 14-16 at the Roseville Park. The village of Crooksville is known as the Clay City, and pottery plays a big part in its heritage. The location of the festival alternates every year between the Crooksville Village Park and the Roseville Park, and kicks off each year with a plate-breaking ceremony. Twelve plates are made with a special design for that year. One plate is broken to signify the start of the festival. One plate is kept for permanent display. And the remaining plates are auctioned off. The money from the auction is used to support the Clay Center of Ohio. More information can be found on its Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/ crooksvillerosevillepotteryfestival/.

Not to be outdone, the village of Thornville offers its annual Backwoods Fest (http://www.thornvillebackwoodsfest.com/), which is billed as a celebration of the rural lifestyle. Held rain or shine the third weekend in September (this year it's Sept. 16-18), it promises over 300 vendors, more than 30 kinds of food, and three days of good bluegrass music.

Somerset is known for its full-on Independence Day celebration every year, as well as its Small-Town Christmas event.

The village of Mount Perry in the

northern part of the county has its own scenic railroad, the Mt. Perry Scenic Train, a.k.a. the Zanesville & Western Railroad. The 40-minute round trip it provides is a great way to get an overview of the region's scenic beauty without having to hike or bike all those miles. It runs from August through late October, plus a Santa train in December.

If golf is your thing, northern Perry County can accommodate you. Thornville offers a 12-hole course, Whitetail Ridge, on Township Road 21. Coyote Run and Perry Country Club are both nine-hole courses, the first located off state Route 13, and the second just south of Somerset.

Whatever brings you to northern Perry County on a visit, once you're here you'll have no shortage of places to dine, shop or just browse. Somerset especially is blessed with a number of bars and restaurants including The Snack Bar, The Hole in the Wall, Epicerie et les fleurs, Sophie's Tea Room, Montell's Pizza, the Clay Haus, Subway, Nick's Pizza, Strong & Co., Wannabees and Katz Kupcakes. It also offers some unique local shops, such as Midwestern Second Hand, whose owner says he aims to provide "a secondhand store that doesn't feel secondhand."

Another place to while away some shopping time while you're in town might be the Somerset Artist's Co-op (https://somersetartistsco-op.com/), a non-profit that aims to offer cultural and art experiences to Perry County citizens while encouraging appreciation of all forms of art. In addition to offering various classes to children and adults in surrounding communities, they operate a gallery and gift shop to display works of local artists.

Terry Reichley of Epicerie et les fleurs acknowledged that some visitors might be surprised to find a café offering French cuisine (as well as Italian, Greek, American and "a little bit of everything") in rural southeast Ohio. Reichley said the restaurant has a loyal word-of-mouth clientele that come from places like Lancaster to enjoy its menu, and would definitely like to see more tourism bringing in potential new customers.

"It's growing," she said of the local tourist trade. "There are lots of places to dine, and a couple of places to shop. I would love to see more retail come in here, but there are lots of places to have a good meal."

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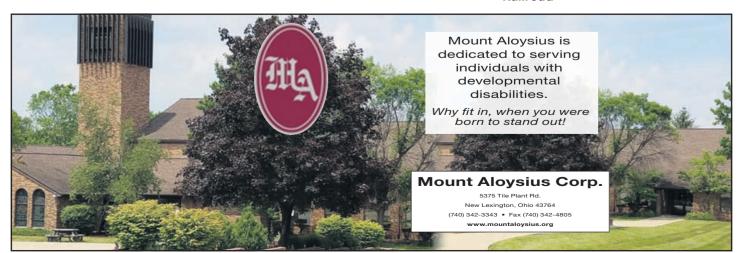
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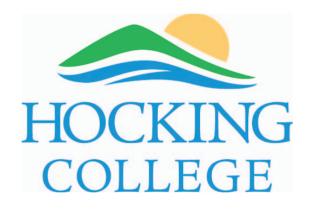
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