



The Voter

September 2016

League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Harrison Rally Day Volunteers Needed

We need people to walk in the parade (10 a.m. Saturday, September 17).

We will also have a booth on Louisiana Avenue where we will register voters and hand out League materials.

Call Carol Shepard at 419-872-9436 to sign up to help.

Administrators to Speak

Public and Private Funding of Schools Will Be Topic of September 15 Meeting at W.W. Knight

Perrysburg Schools Superintendent Tom Hosler and Development Director Jeff Abke will speak on *Perrysburg Schools in the 21st Century — Private Versus Public Funding* at the League Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 15. The meeting will be held at W.W. Knight Nature Preserve, 29530 White Road in Perrysburg, at 7 p.m.

The two school administrators will discuss how the school district relies on taxpayers for funding the district's \$48 million budget, but how they are also going out on their own to raise funds. They will also introduce Perrysburg's newly-hired treasurer Pamela Harrington at the meeting.

Mr. Hosler has served as superintendent of Perrysburg Schools since August 2007. Prior



Superintendent Tom Hosler



Development Director Jeff Abke

to that he was superintendent of the Huron School District in Southern Wayne County, Michigan, for seven years. Mr. Hosler grew up in Point Place and is a graduate of St. Francis de Sales High School. He has a bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the University of Toledo.

Jeff Abke, a 1996 Perrysburg High School graduate, was hired in 2013 by Perrysburg Schools in partnership with the Perrysburg Schools Foundation to establish a development program. As Development Director, he is leading the effort to seek

financial gifts from alumni, supporters and those with an affinity for Perrysburg Schools. His goal is to keep the district competitive with private and charter schools that have cultivated donors, many with strong Perrysburg ties. The district loses locally levied funds every time a student leaves for a charter school.

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League of Women Voters of the Perrysburg Area

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Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Web Site

**www.perrysburg.
oh.lwvnet.org**

President's Letter

Dear League Members,

This 2016-17 year will be a busy year for the Perrysburg League. Yes, it is a presidential year, but we also have many local/ county/ state candidates for whom to vote. While it has been a most unusual campaign for the highest office, I hope you are following the news and will be prepared to vote in November. Remember our Candidate's Forum will be held in Bowling Green this year on Sunday evening, October 9, in partnership with the BG LWV. There we will hear from the county-wide candidates, which is always helpful when you as a voter are trying to make up your mind. We will also publish our annual Voter's Guide which is greatly appreciated by the entire community. Debra Gorman is our new Voter's Service Chair, and she is already busy with voting matters.

By the time the Voter is published you should have received a letter telling you of all the upcoming programs and activities. I am referring to the Membership Meeting on September 15, to be held at the W.W. Knight Center at 7 p.m. Please try to come and bring a friend.

Also, don't forget Harrison Rally Day on September 17. That Saturday morning we hope to have enough members/friends that will walk in the parade and/or help at the Booth where we will be registering voters and handing our materials.

In closing, as a former library director, I would like to share a quote from Paula Poundstone about libraries. "It's funny that we think of libraries as quiet demure places where we are shushed by dusty, bun-balancing, bespectacled women. The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community. Librarians have stood up to the Patriot Act, sat down with noisy toddlers and reached out to illiterate adults. Libraries can never be shushed." Way Library, our programing partner these past few years, is just such a place!

Nancy Kelley



Candidates Forum

**Sunday, October 9
at 7 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church
Bowling Green, Ohio



Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Sept. 15 — Membership Meeting 7 p.m. *Perrysburg Schools in the 21st Century*. Supt. Tom Hosler and Development Director Jeff Abke

Tuesday, Sept. 27 — 7 p.m. *Keeping Our Air, Water Quality Safe*. Jack Shaner, Ohio Environmental Council

Sunday, Oct. 9 — 7 p.m. *Candidate Forum*. First United Methodist Church, Bowling Green

Tuesday, Oct. 25 — 7 p.m. *How Polls Are Conducted*. Dr. Sam Nelson, Assoc. Prof. Political Science and Administration, University of Toledo

Tuesday, Nov. 22 — 7 p.m. *Concussions*. Dr. Andrea Cripps. Licensed Athletic Trainer, BGSU

Thursday, Dec. 15 — Noon *Holiday Luncheon*. Dr. Sharon Gaber, President, University of Toledo

Tuesday, Jan. 10 — 7 p.m. *Economic Ramifications in Raising Minimum Wage*. Dr. Peter VanderHart, Dr. Andrea Schneider, Dept. of Economics, BGSU

Tuesday, Jan. 17 — Noon *Annual Program Meeting*. Luncheon

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — 7 p.m. *Lucas County Land Bank*. David Mann

Tuesday, March (TBA) — 7 p.m. *Refugee Resettlement in Toledo Area*.

Sunday, March 26 — 2 p.m. *Stranahan Award*. 577 Foundation

Tuesday, April 25 — 7 p.m. *Perspectives on Declaring Lake Erie "Impaired."* Karl Gebhardt, Ohio EPA

Tuesday, May 9 — TBA

Tuesday, May 23 — 11 a.m. *Annual Meeting*. Noon *Luncheon*. Speaker TBA

* All programs will be at Way Library, unless otherwise noted.

Meeting Topic Will Be Public and Private Funding of Schools

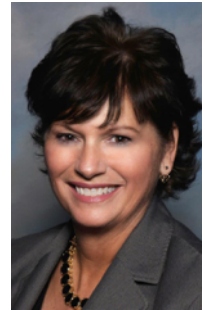
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The development program is also intended to provide Perrysburg Schools with more enrichment activities, gap-closing measures and technology integration to promote academic excellence.

The district accepts, manages and distributes gifts according to donor wishes and established district goals and priorities that include academics, athletic facilities, fine and performing arts, programs, materials and technology.

Mr. Abke holds a bachelor of arts degree from Miami University. He was recently one of just 12 education foundation executives from 10 states who were first to be nationally certified by the National School Foundation Association (NSFA) and National University's Sanford Institute of Philanthropy.

The purpose of the September 15 Membership Meeting is to welcome current LWVPA members to a new year of League activities and encourage other community members to join the League. Please bring friends, neighbors or co-workers whom you think might be interested in the League.



Pamela Harrington was named School Treasurer as of August 1. She has over 23 years experience in school finance. Before coming to Perrysburg she was CFO/Treasurer for Defiance City Schools.

Natural Resources Report

Do you remember the phrase: "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink?" Little did we know as children that this phrase would become so important in later years. Perhaps one of the best things all of us can do is become informed about water issues, not only in our area but across the country and in other countries. There are so many things contributing factors from fracking, to pollution, to old infrastructure, to joining forces for regional water authorities, to tips on how to prevent and conserve. We are all in this together, and we need to find solutions.

In this September's issue, I would like to make you aware of some websites and places you can go for information. Obviously, I cannot present all of them, but here are a few I have found helpful, educational and easy to understand.

Food & Water Watch -

www.foodandwaterwatch.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Roster of Contaminated Water Cleanup Sites - www.epa.gov/superfund

Ohio Environmental Council - www.theoec.org

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency - www.epa.state.oh.us

Clean Water Rule Call to Action -

www.epa.gov/cleanwaterule

Keeping Our Air Clean and Our Water Safe

In partnership with Way Library and the Country Garden Club, the League is sponsoring a meeting on this topic on Tuesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. at Way Library.

The featured speaker will be Jack Shaner from the Ohio Environmental Council.

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Natural Resources Report

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In addition to these sites, universities are also working on issues. For example, Bowling Green State University researchers studied data from the sensors in Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie to determine algal bloom in the lake.

So, as the days get shorter and dark comes earlier, spend a few minutes doing some research about what you can do to protect our water. Happy researching!

*Sue Hoffman
Natural Resources Co-Chair*

Summer Observer Reports

Special Observer Note: Council Meetings, Appeals before Council and Special Council Meetings were observed during the summer. While Council discussed and passed ordinances and resolutions related to road improvements, Riverside Park, sanitary sewer projects along with many other issues, below are just highlights of these summer sessions.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting June 7, 2016

- A citizen asked if the City Administrator has the right to take the floor during Council Meetings to answer questions or give input without first asking permission from the Council. The City Law Director, who was in attendance, said the City Administrator does have the right as she holds information and has information to give to the council related to the business before the Council.
- Resolution 12-2016 was submitted to the Council as a first reading and not as an emergency and to be available for passage by the Council's 12/06/16 meeting. The resolution calls for the City to "create a smoking ordinance within its parks which limits smoking to designated areas that are removed from communal locations such as, but not limited to athletic fields, shelters, picnic areas, scenic plazas and playground equipment." There was much discussion regarding the need for such legislation, enforcement issues, litter in the parks as a result of smoking, restricted areas versus a complete ban and questions as to how other cities have handled this issue.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting June 21, 2016

- The annual Street Tree Commission report was read. One interesting note was that the City has been "battling" the Emerald Ash Borer for 13 years and there are still 283 ash trees being treated at an annual cost of \$4,328.
- Resolution 12-2016 was submitted to the Council as a second reading and not as an emergency and to be available for passage by the Council's 12/06/16 meeting. Following a discussion, it was passed that the language should be changed to read something along the lines of "prohibits smoking at fields, shelters, etc." rather than having designated smoking areas. The Resolution will come before Council again.

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Perrysburg City Council Meeting July 12, 2016

During the Citizens Concerns portion of the Council Meeting, this issue was raised:

- A Citizen made a case for better biking facilities within the City. The Citizen was told that the Citizen's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has discussed this issue.
- A third reading of Resolution 12-2016 regarding an initiative to create "Clean Air, Clean Parks." Following discussions at previous Council meetings, the resolution has been revised and calls for the City to "*create a smoking ordinance within its parks that prohibits smoking in communal locations such as, but not limited to athletic fields, shelters, picnic areas, scenic plazas and playground equipment.*" There was a similar discussion as at the previous Council meeting regarding the need for such legislation, enforcement issues, litter in the parks as a result of smoking and restricting access to smokers who help pay for the parks. The Resolution will come before Council again.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting July 26, 2016

- Passed Ordinance 71-2016 authorizing an amendment to the agreement with AECOM Technical in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.00 to extend the sanitary sewer and combined sewer flow metering into September. Due to lack of rain this summer season, sufficient data is not available. This metering is related to progress being made to sewer overflows.

Special Perrysburg City Council Meeting: Board of Zoning Appeal for Boat Club, August 9, 2016

- Council Member Tim McCarthy was elected President of Council Pro Tem.
- At the beginning of the hearing, the President Pro Tem described the hearing as a quasi-judicial proceeding and went on to explain that this meant that the hearing would be conducted similar to that of a juried court case: all witnesses are sworn in, both sides have an opportunity to give testimony and rebuttal, and Council would retire for closed door deliberations. He explained that the testimony and voting are done in public, but that the deliberations are done behind closed doors.
- The issue being heard was a variance request made by the Boat Club for a 3-foot set back from the right-of-way rather than the 50-foot set back as required by the current zoning. The Boat Club had been granted 5 variances prior to this meeting.
- The Boat Club presented their case along with witnesses and architectural drawings for approving the zoning variance. They cited member safety, being a good neighbor by having a structure that fits in with the neighborhood and other reasons for granting the variance.
- The City presented their case for not approving the zoning variance and suggested that perhaps a re-zoning of the area from its current "Park" (the only private property in the city zoned as such) to zoning to C-2 (Commercial) would be more appropriate rather than granting another variance.
- After both sides had presented their arguments, the Council retired behind closed doors to deliberate.

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Special Observer Note: Once Council retired for their deliberations, I waited for a short amount of time and when Council Members had not returned, I left the meeting. I did not attend a second meeting later in the week where deliberations were continued and the voting took place.

Perrysburg City Council Meeting August 16, 2016

- Council Member Tim McCarthy was elected President of Council Pro Tem.

During the Citizens Concerns portion of the Council Meeting, these issues were raised:

- Deborah Born read a letter that she had submitted to each council member prior to the meeting. The letter outlined her contention that she should be appointed to the council to replace the late John Kevern based upon the fact that during the last election for City Council she came in fifth position behind Mr. Kevern. She also contended that the application process was in violation of the City Charter.
- Another citizen voiced concern about the applications for the Council vacancy was being handled by the Human Resource Department rather than the Council. The Law Director explained Human Resources was collecting the applications at the request of Council.

During the Administrative Reports portion of the Council Meeting, these issues were raised:

- A special meeting of Council was scheduled for Thursday, 08/25/16, at 5:30 p.m. to fill the open council seat. Council has until 08/31/16 to select a replacement.
- There was a discussion between Council Members and the City Administrator about the process of collecting information on interested candidates. It was pointed out that Council asked the Administration the best way to obtain information from people interested in being considered for the open council seat. The Administration suggested the same process that was used to replace Council Member Ernie a few years ago – which was the same process that had been used for replacing a Council Member prior to Ernie.
- The City Administrator reminded Council that the deadline for applications was noon on Friday, 08/19/16, and that Council members would receive an email copy of applications and all attached documents as well as a hard copy which would be put in each of their mailboxes.
- There was discussion as to the Citizen's concern that Human Resources would not forward all applicant information on to Council Members. This was rejected outright by the President Pro Tem.
- It was decided that no formal interview process would be established. Each Council member will contact individual candidate if they have questions or want to clarify information regarding the application. It was also expressed that a formal application was not required of an applicant – an applicant could submit their resumes/documents without using the online application. These could be submitted through Human Resources or directly to Council members.

*Debra Greenley Gorman
Observer*