



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.lorainswcd.com

VOLUME 34, ISSUE 51

THE LATITUDE / LONGITUDE
41° 21' 09" N. - 82° 08' 55" W.

SUMMER/FALL 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

Lorain County Conservation District provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve the natural resources and environment in Lorain County.



Special thanks to Marty Gallagher, David Moore and Jeff Riddell, Lorain County Commissioners, for their continued support to Lorain County Conservation District!

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CONGRATULATIONS NACD POSTER WINNERS!



Congratulations to the Lorain County Conservation District poster contest winners sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)! **Randi-Chanel Seymore** won 1st place in the 4-6th grade category. Seymore attended Oberlin Elementary School this past spring. **Diem Vanderpool** won 1st place in the 7-9th grade category. Vanderpool attended Firelands High School. **Addison Beal** won 1st place in the 10-12th grade category. Beal attended Firelands High School in the spring. First place winners won \$50.00 dollars!



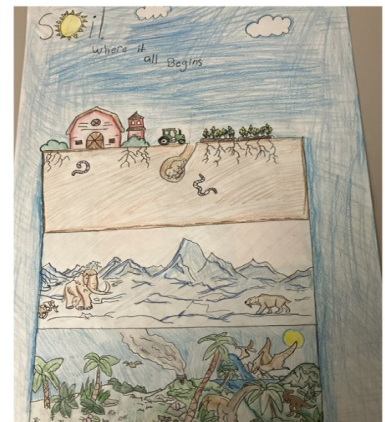
Randi-Chanel Seymore, 5th grade



Addison Beal, 12th grade

Voting begins!

An election of two supervisors to Lorain County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will begin Monday, August 24, 2026 through Tuesday, September 22, 2026. There are two candidates running for two seats on the Board. Absentee ballots will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting on **August 24, 2026** and continuing until noon on **September 22, 2026**. You may request your ballot in writing, or by calling the District office at 440-326-5800. See page two for more details.



Diem Vanderpool, 9th grade

Supervisor Election Info

The Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District (Lorain SWCD) to be held in accordance with Chapter 940 of the Ohio Revised Code. Individuals who own or occupy land within the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District and are 18 years of age or older may vote for a Supervisor.

Two Supervisors will be elected to a three-year term commencing January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2029.

Nominees are:

Carl Wesemeyer

Peggy Vasu



Election Procedures

Absentee ballots are available upon request during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, August 24, 2026.

There are three (3) ways an eligible voter can cast a ballot:

- 1.) At the SWCD office, 42110 Russia Rd, Elyria, from 8/24/2026 until 9/22/2026 during normal business hours (by noon on 9/22/2026); or
- 2.) At the SWCD Annual Meeting, which will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at Wellington Eagles, 631 S. Main St., Wellington, OH. Voting takes place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; or
- 3.) Voting absentee from 8/24/2026 until 9/22/2026, by requesting the ballot application and election ballot from the SWCD office at the following address 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, by calling 440-326-5800, or email lpارش@loraincounty.us. Absentee ballots must be received by the SWCD office by noon, 9/22/2026.

Ohio Soil & Water Conservation Commission (OSWCC) will certify the election and provide results to the ODA-DSWC and SWCD office.



MEET THE CANDIDATES!



Carl Wesemeyer has been a Grafton Township Trustee since 2012. He is also a RLCWA Board member, LORCA Board member, LCTA member, NRAC member and serves on the LCPH District Advisory Committee. His personal experience with conservation practices include the rebuilding of drainage waterways, construction of ponds and inspections of stormwater control methods. Carl lives in Grafton with his wife, Cynthia. He and Cynthia have two daughters.



Peggy Vasu and her husband John, are residents of Huntington Township. She works part-time as a nurse for the Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital and in her spare time she is a Master Gardner and beekeeper. Peggy has learned about stream bank erosion control by live staking the Charlemont Creek stream banks on her property. She enjoys teaching about and practicing good gardening and composting practices and the benefits of both. Because of her love of ecology, she feels it is important to encourage good soil and water practices not only in our agricultural areas but in our urban areas as well. Peggy and John have two children.

LORAIN SWCD ANNUAL MEETING: IN COOPERATION WITH THE LORAIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Board of Supervisors will hold their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. The meeting will take place at Wellington Eagles. The election of two supervisors will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will be available. There will be a brief business meeting, various awards, and scholarship presentations during the evening. Tickets are \$18.00 each, with dinner catered by Pogie's Catering. **Tickets are on sale now through Tuesday, September 15, 2026.** To purchase, use the order form on the back page; no tickets will be sold at the door. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

POLLINATOR FIELD UPDATE

The 2.5 acre pollinator field is developing beautifully & exceeding our expectations already! The amount of life you'll see ranges from buzzing bees to fluttering butterflies, scampering rabbits, dashing dragonflies, beetles, flies, wasps (that will not harm you if you don't bother them), to numerous species of birds like secretive field sparrows, gleaming goldfinches, & even raptor species like kestrels hunting for grasshoppers. Flowering plants such as swamp, butterfly, & common milkweed, coreopsis, showy evening primrose, partridge pea, blue vervain, & much more in all the colors of a rainbow! Feel free to visit anytime during our normal business hours & prepare to be amazed! Questions? Reach out to Patti D. at pdonnellan@loraincounty.us or call 440-406-3365.



Left: Wildflower species like coreopsis and vervain beckon hungry pollinators.

Right: Our event on May 15th brought together nearly all the partners involved in making this a dream come true. We truly could not have done this without them!



Lorain County Conservation District along with Cuyahoga SWCD will be the **host for the 2027 Area 2 Envirothon!** We would love to see lots of teams from all over Lorain County represented this coming year. Contact us for more info on getting a team together or to sponsor the event at 440-326-5808 or email jfisher@loraincounty.us

Wellington FFA 2026 Envirothon teams. We had three this year! Pictured L-R: Daisy Bockmore, Madelyn Kohler, Alexa Gallion, Sophia Lyon, Katie Stannard. Doug Mohrman, Tyler Burns, Reece Leiby, Max Hook, Nicholas Sword, Kelsey Urig, Temperance Persinger, Gabriella Crock, LillyAnne Gancos and Parker Bowman.



Come see us at the 2026 Lorain County Fair!

Stop by and see our booth located in the Soil & Water Conservation Red Barn #28.

August 23-30, 2026

JOEL MCROBERTS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

We would like to extend our congratulations to Marshall Ternes! He is the recipient of the 2026 Joel McRoberts Memorial Scholarship. Marshall graduated from Firelands High School and plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio in the fall and major in Agricultural Mechanics. Marshall is the son of Richard & Melinda Ternes. Best of luck to you, Marshall!



Shown here: L-R: LSWCD District Administrator Patti Donnellan, Marshall Ternes, & LSWCD Board Chair Ian Wilshire

Our Joel McRoberts Continuing Education Scholarship recipient is Ethan Falkenburg! Ethan graduated from Avon High School in 2023 and went on to study at The Ohio State University. He will be entering his fourth year studying Natural Resource Management. Congratulations, Ethan!



BIG NEWS! The Black River was designated as an Area of Concern (AOC) in 1987, prompting local, state, and federal partners to work together toward completing all management actions & the removal of the nine impairments that led to the designation as an AOC.

As of July 2026, all 9 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) have been removed & the delisting process is now underway! A celebration is being planned for May 26, 2027 at Black River Landing & Lorain Brewing Company/Shipyards Event Center. Come celebrate this historic milestone in Lorain County history!

The Black River was once known for the mighty ships that were built on its banks. Along with steel and coal utilizing the banks and shoreline, this was Lorain's life-blood. However, after many years of unregulated actions, the Black River became heavily polluted, most notably along the steel mills. That led to a contaminated river that could not support healthy fish & wildlife populations. Because of the many dedicated partners that put the effort into cleaning up and restoring our river, our Black River is proving to be one of the greatest environmental success stories in Ohio history!

Can you unscramble these words to unlock the secrets of composting?

bricmsoe _____ Tiny organisms that help break down organic matter.

olsi _____ The dirt beneath your feet & an end product of composting.

ofod stawe _____ Accounts for up to 40% of landfill waste.

enegr _____ Wet, fresh materials like kitchen scraps & grass clippings that feed the microbes and heat up the pile.

norwb _____ Dry, fibrous materials like dead leaves and cardboard that provide structure, air pockets, and balanced energy.

baconr _____ acts as the primary energy source and building block for microorganisms that break down organic waste in a compost pile.

erutmeept _____ Most people agree that reaching this around 140°F indicates a well-balanced mix of moisture, airflow, and carbon-to-nitrogen ratios.

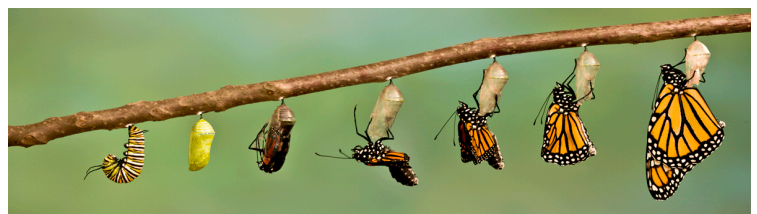
nahtiR lioSs _____ Lorain County's new compost facility.

aryd teasw _____ Leaves, grass clippings, & twigs that can be composted.

aabceirt _____ make up to 90% of the billions of microorganisms in compost and drive most of the decomposition & heat generation.



We will be collecting common milkweed seed pods again this fall through the end of October. Do **NOT** pick too early, as any moisture in the pod can lead to the seeds rotting until they can be processed. Wait until the pods are dry & gray/brown & bring them in paper bags. Look for the green & yellow bins by the main entrance to drop off. Questions? Call 440-326-5800.



ANSWERS: microbes; soil; food waste; green; brown; carbon; temperature; Kathleen Soils; yard waste; bacteria

FALL FISH SALE



Friday, October 16, 2026 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

at the Agricultural Center, 42110 Russia Rd, Elyria

The truck from Fender's Fish Hatchery of Baltic, Ohio will be here at 1:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. to distribute orders. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Hybrid Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Redear Shellcracker, Fathead Minnows, Triploid White Amur, and Japanese Koi are available. We will also have pond conditioner - a once-a-year treatment that adds a natural green color, while lowering fertility levels in your pond and fish food.

On pick-up day, you will need to bring a container filled with your pond water to pick up your order—approximately 5 gallons of water for each 100 fingerling size fish. We suggest using a trash can with a **new, unscented plastic liner**—then adding the pond water to the container. Ensure there is enough room for the liner to be tied shut for transportation. Remember, the Amur are 8-10" long and need a suitable container.

General stocking recommendations are 100 Largemouth Bass and 500 Bluegill per surface acre of pond area. Channel Catfish can also be stocked in ponds that are a 1/2 acre or larger; though they will not reproduce in a pond, they do provide excellent fishing. A 4-6" long Catfish stocked this fall will double in size by next spring.

If you have pond stocking questions, please contact the experts at Fender's Fish Hatchery at (740) 622-0681.

FISH SALE ORDER FORM

**ALL FISH PRICES ARE LISTED, YOU MUST INCLUDE SALES TAX AT 6.5%.
IF YOU ARE TAX EXEMPT, PLEASE INCLUDE A FULLY
COMPLETED TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE WITH YOUR ORDER.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone # (required): _____

**Mail and return with checks
made out to:**

Lorain SWCD
42110 Russia Rd.
Elyria, OH 44035

Order deadline date:

Friday, October 9, 2026

Order pick-up date:

1:30—2:30 p.m., Friday,
October 16, 2026

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u># Ordered</u>	<u>\$ Total</u>
Largemouth Bass	2-3"	\$1.50	_____	_____
Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.25	_____	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2-4"	\$1.25	_____	_____
Channel Catfish	4-5"	\$1.00	_____	_____
Yellow Perch	2-3"	\$1.25	_____	_____
Redear Sunfish (Shellcracker)	2-4"	\$1.25	_____	_____
Fathead Minnow	per 100	\$10.00	_____	_____
Japanese Koi	5-7"	\$15.00	_____	_____
Triploid White Amur	8-10"	\$18.00	_____	_____
Nature's Pond Conditioner 1 bottle per 1/4 acre		\$95.00	_____	_____
Pond Management Book-2018 Edition/Steve Fender		\$25.00	_____	_____
Optimal Fish food, 40# bag (40% protein)		\$55.00	_____	_____

SUB TOTAL \$ _____

TAX 6.50% \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



YOU'RE INVITED! Lorain SWCD Annual Meeting:

In cooperation with Lorain County Farm Bureau

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Wellington Eagles

631 South Main Street, Wellington

Supervisor Election: 5:30-6:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Reservations _____ x \$18.00 each = \$ _____

For reservations: Please return this form to Lorain SWCD, 42110 Russia Rd., Elyria, OH 44035 or call the SWCD office at 440-326-5800. The deadline is **Tuesday, September 15, 2026.**

“ AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER ”



LORAIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

42110 Russia Road, Elyria OH 44035 Phone: 440-326-5800

www.lorainswcd.com

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Ian Wilkshire, Chairman
Carl Wesemeyer, Vice-Chairman
Peggy Vasu, Treasurer
Kolin Bendickson, Secretary
Trent Hill, Member

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Lawry Babitt
John Born
Kathleen Bradley
Robert "Bob" Pandy

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Andrew Cooksey, Drainage Engineer
Patti Donnellan, District Administrator
Jack Fisher, Stormwater Specialist
Hayden Matus, Conservation Technician
Lynne Parsh, Office Manager

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Jeremy Liechty, District Conservationist
Josh Denton, Area 2 Engineer
Samantha Martinez, Civil Engineer Tech.

LORAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Marty Gallagher, David Moore, Jeff Riddell



OR CURRENT RESIDENT