

2024-2025 TOUR BOOK

FREE · ISSUE 29

Buckeye Lake

75 YEARS AS OHIO'S FIRST STATE PARK



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WELCOME TO THE



Buckeye Lake Region

WE HAVE IT ALL!



On behalf of the **BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BLRCC)**, we're glad that you have taken the opportunity to visit our tri-county region. Thank you for picking up a copy of this year's tour book, which is the essential guide for the area. There are many businesses to visit and places to tour while you're here. Please look at the map in the center of this guide to locate many of the businesses, restaurants, parks, pubs, and fine dining establishments that the region has to offer. Also this year, the tour book is color-coded to areas of interest and communities.

Stop and have a cappuccino or a glass of wine while dining and watching the sun set or rise. You might even want to buy a new home or condo, so be sure to visit one of the local real estate offices. Don't forget to visit one of our marinas and inquire about a new boat or a boat rental so that you can enjoy the view and our amenities from the water.

As you travel, please note that many of our businesses are open year-round and there is always something to do no matter the season. For instance, the last Saturday in January is the annual WINTERFEST! This is the morning that Benny, our resident bass, will have his annual spring prognostication, so you will want to be here along with 20,000 of Benny fanatics when the event kicks off at 6:30 a.m.! Followed by the Polar Plunge on Sunday at the Buckeye Lake Winery.

We at the chamber are very proud of our business leaders, local politicians, realtors, and BLRCC board members who work tirelessly for our community. We have seen unprecedented building of new homes and growth of new businesses throughout our Buckeye Lake Region the last couple of years and this seems to be a continuing trend.

I want to thank all of our advertisers, the businesses around the lake, the villages and townships, and the BLRCC board for working hard and making our region a great and special place. A special thank you to our chamber administrator, Dianne Ryan, who makes all of us greater and the team at *Escape to Buckeye Lake* for working with the chamber to create this year's tour book. We all work together to make the region and Buckeye Lake a great place to live, work, and relax.

We love it here and we know you will too.

Timothy L. Ryan

PRESIDENT
BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BuckeyeLakeRegionCC@gmail.com
BuckeyeLakeCC.com
(740)398-7205

 @BuckeyeLakeChamber



BUCKEYE LAKE

By the Numbers

The Buckeye Lake Region is a destination for all seasons. Whether you want to experience lake life on the water or around the shore, there is something for everyone at this central Ohio vacation spot. Dive into these eight fun facts about the lake while planning your visit!

1ST

THE LAKE BECAME
OHIO'S FIRST STATE
PARK IN 1949

20+

THE NUMBER OF ISLANDS
AT BUCKEYE LAKE

3

COUNTIES MAKE THE
BUCKEYE LAKE REGION
(FAIRFIELD, LICKING, & PERRY)

3K+

THE NUMBER OF
ACRES OF WATER AT
BUCKEYE LAKE



14'

THE DEEPEST AREA
OF BUCKEYE LAKE

35

MILES OF SHORELINE
SURROUNDS THE LAKE

4+

MILES OF A
WALKING & BIKING
PATH CONNECTS THE
NORTH SHORE TO
LIEBS ISLAND

30

THE NUMBER OF
MINUTES BUCKEYE
LAKE IS LOCATED EAST
OF COLUMBUS

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SINCE 1912



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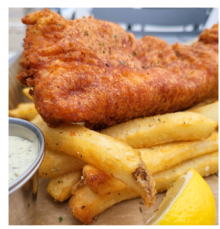
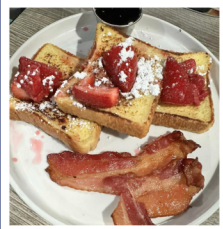
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THE HISTORY OF

Buckeye Lake

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS AS OHIO'S FIRST STATE PARK

THE GREAT BUFFALO SWAMP

1700s · Thousands of years ago, glaciers moved south across Ohio altering drainage systems and landscape. Natural lakes, known as kettles, were created when huge chunks of ice broke off the glacier and melted in depressions. Formed by these retreating glaciers, Buckeye Lake first existed as a shallow, swampy pond, named “Great Buffalo Swamp” by Ohio Company explorer Christopher Gist in 1751. Near the pond was a salt spring that attracted deer and bison, which gave the area another name, “Buffalo Lick.” It was of little importance to settlers until the building of the **OHIO-ERIE CANAL** in 1825, which enlarged the lake to over 7 miles in length and over 1 mile in width at its widest point, the size of the lake as we know it now.

CUTTING THE CANALS

1800s · To provide interconnecting waterways for a growing state, a canal system was developed which required feeder lakes to supply the water necessary to maintain the 4-foot canal water level. Construction was eventually completed in 1830, forming the Licking Summit Reservoir, which would eventually become known as Buckeye Lake. Port towns and mills sprung up along the canal system during its construction. **THE DEEP CUT CANAL** is the most discernible part of the Ohio-Erie Canal in Millersport, approximately 4 miles in length and 32 feet deep. The Deep Cut was specifically created to supply the canal water in the lake to flow toward Baltimore, Canal Winchester, and Circleville, Ohio. After the creation of railroads, canal systems eventually became obsolete, and it wasn't until 1894 that Buckeye Lake would be officially named a public park.

THE PLAYGROUND OF OHIO

1900s · Due to the creation of the Newark Traction Company's Interurban Electric Railway, the rail company offered tourist attractions on a nine-acre plot at the north shore of Buckeye Lake to help boost weekend business, which was free to visitors during the summer. By 1911, the Buckeye Lake area held two amusement parks, an arcade, two dance pavilions, a swimming beach, power boat races, and more. During the 1920s, new rides, including a Ferris wheel, a spinning car ride, a house of mirrors, the Skateland roller rink, and the Dips roller coaster were added. Buckeye Lake boasted 21 hotels or boarding houses for visitors that came from all over Ohio.

In its prime during the 1940s, the dance halls hosted big Hollywood names such as Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, and more. By the end of the 1950s, Buckeye Lake Amusement Park was in decline and continued to deteriorate into the 1960s. Now, the only remaining remnant of the park is the iconic fountain that originally served as the centerpiece of the midway, which was restored in the summer of 2023.



OHIO'S FIRST STATE PARK

TODAY · With the creation of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources in 1949, Buckeye Lake was named Ohio's very first state park, celebrating 75 years in 2024! Buckeye Lake State Park continues to be an exciting vacation destination to spend the day on the water, enjoy live entertainment at the many local businesses surrounding the shoreline, experience delicious cuisines and tasty drinks from the continuously growing food scene, and admire stunning sunsets while doing so! Visitors can enjoy outdoor activities including boating, birding, fishing, kayaking, hiking/walking, hunting, picnicking, and swimming. During the winter months under proper conditions, park visitors can enjoy ice skating, cross-country skiing, and ice fishing.

BUCKEYE LAKE MUSEUM

BUCKEYELAKEHISTORY.ORG | 4729 WALNUT ROAD, BUCKEYE LAKE

Peruse hundreds of items from the famous Buckeye Lake Amusement Park, including photographs, tickets, the original taffy puller, shoe skates, and more. The museum also features special displays of the original polo field and the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club!



BUCKEYE LAKE REGION PARKS & RECREATION

Buckeye Lake offers many options for outdoor recreation! Enjoy biking, hiking, swimming, fishing, and more at the public park areas surrounding the shoreline.

BUCKEYE LAKE WALKING & BIKING TRAIL

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- Walking/Biking Path

BROOKS PARK

3500 S BANK ROAD NE, MILLERSPORT

- Fishing
- Picnic Area
- Playground
- Public Swimming Area
- Wetland Habitat Overlook
- Boat Ramp

CRYSTAL BEACH

WALNUT ROAD, BUCKEYE LAKE

- Public Swimming Area

FAIRFIELD BEACH

LAKE SHORE DRIVE NE, THORNVILLE

- Boat Ramp
- Fishing
- Playground
- Pickleball Court
- Public Swimming Area
- Shelter House

LIEBS ISLAND

2871 LIEBS ISLAND ROAD, MILLERSPORT

- Boat Ramp
- Fishing
- Picnic Area
- Walking/Biking Path

NORTH SHORE

WALNUT ROAD, BUCKEYE LAKE

- Boat Ramp
- Fishing
- Public Swimming Area
- Shelter House
- Walking/Biking Path

RYAN/BRAYDEN PARK

177 SECOND STREET, BUCKEYE LAKE

- Shelter House
- Pickleball Court
- Playground

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THE DAWES ARBORETUM

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FISHERSMARINA.NET

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MIDOHIOGOLFCAR.COM

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PEAOHANA.COM/BUCKEYELAKE

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Scan to
download the app!

LAKE.

Buckeye Lake is central Ohio's premier outdoor recreation destination for all seasons! With over 3,000 acres of water, the lake offers plenty of ways to experience the excitement of water sports and activities. Sail, kayak, and canoe across the lake, or try jet skiing, paddle boarding, water skiing, and tubing if you want to get your feet wet. In the winter months, park visitors can enjoy ice skating, cross-country skiing, ice fishing, and ice boating.

LAND.

There's plenty to explore around the shoreline, too! Hop on a bike or take a walk along the 4.1-mile dam trail for beautiful waterfront views. Have fun shopping in all the cool local shops or boutiques that surround the lake, or check out the memorabilia from the Buckeye Lake Amusement Park at the Buckeye Lake Historical Society Museum. Plus, Buckeye Lake is one of the top lakes in the state for fishing! Catch saugeye, crappie, channel catfish, and more on the 35 miles of shoreline.

LEISURE.

Buckeye Lake's food scene is continuously growing! Start your lake day adventure with a pick-me-up from one of the local cafes. For lunch or dinner, indulge in delicious cuisine like a seafood entree, classic pizza, or gourmet burger. Then, pair it with a refreshing glass of wine, craft brew, or cocktail and enjoy beautiful sunsets and live music from the shoreline. To satisfy your sweet tooth, stop by one of the many local ice cream or donut shops that line the area.



FAIRFIELD BEACH FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

HISTORY

FAIRFIELD BEACH has grown from a seasonal retreat to a vibrant, diverse, year-round community. It's the largest area of natural shoreline with public access on Buckeye Lake, and offers a sandy swimming beach, picnic area, boat ramp, a wetland area known as Brooks Park, and abundant public parking.

EAT & DRINK

- 1 Beach House Pub
- 2 Buckeye Lake Winery

SHOPPING

- 1 Beach Stop Market/Marathon

EXPLORE

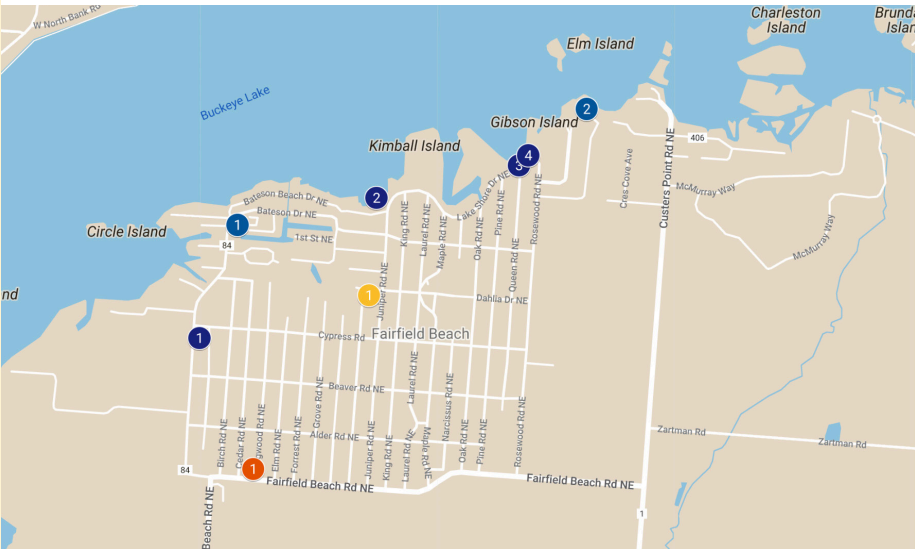
- 1 Earthly Pottery/Dirt Floor Pottery
- 2 Fairfield Beach Boat Ramp
- 3 Fairfield Beach Pickleball Court
- 4 Fairfield Beach Swimming Area

SERVICES

- 1 Bobcat Bookkeeping



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
HISTORY OF
FAIRFIELD BEACH



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**HARBOR HILLS
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO**

HISTORY

HARBOR HILLS, a development of beautiful homes on the northeastern shore, first started in 1922 along with a nine-hole golf course that was created beside the lake. Today, Harbor Hills offers visitors this public golf course and multiple popular local restaurants with beautiful waterfront views.

EAT & DRINK

- 1 Papa Boo's
- 2 The Dirty Oar
- 3 Waterfront on Buckeye Lake



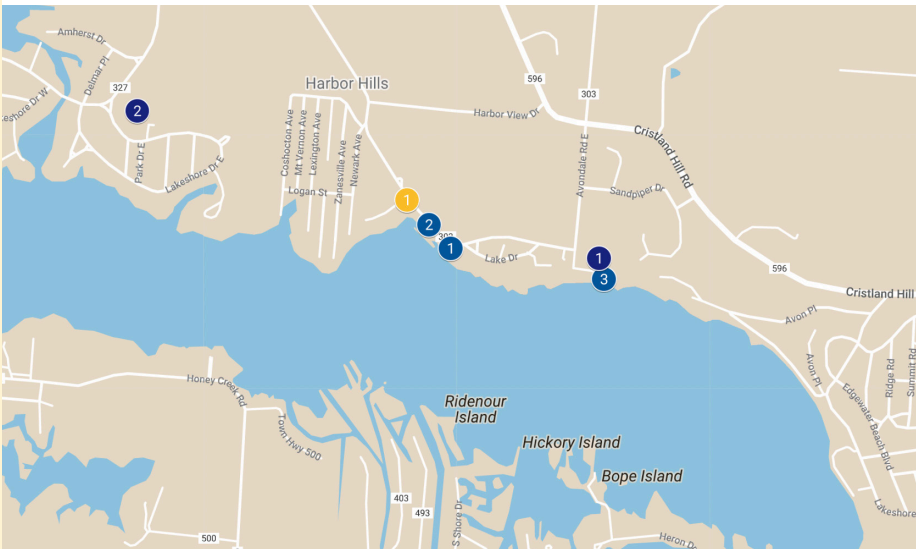
**LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE HISTORY
OF HARBOR HILLS**

EXPLORE

- 1 Captain Buck's Pontoon Tours
- 2 Harbor Hills Country Club

SERVICES

- 1 The Dixon Team





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VILLAGE OF BUCKEYE LAKE LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

HISTORY · The Village of Buckeye Lake was officially incorporated July 9, 1980, and sits along State Route 79, approximately halfway between Columbus and Zanesville, Ohio.

During the 1940s, the village once held an amusement park with a Ferris wheel, roller coaster, dance pavilions, and arcade, and was known as the Playground of Ohio. The dance halls hosted big Hollywood names such as Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, and more.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF BUCKEYE LAKE VILLAGE

After purchasing the former amusement park property, the State of Ohio developed the grounds into the North Shore Park with 3 boat ramps, a swimming area at Crystal Beach, restrooms, and public docks. This park also offers access to the east end of the 4.1-mile multi-use path on the lake. Smooth and level with an asphalt surface, this trail along the shoreline is unique and scenic, and permits both walking and bicycling.

  | Learn more at BuckeyeLakeVillage.com



EAT & DRINK

- 1 Barrel Bar
- 2 Blue Heron Kitchen & Pub
- 3 Bob's Bar & Grill LLC
- 4 Boatyard Tavern & Grill
- 5 Buckeye Lake Brewery
- 6 Buckeye Lake Eagles (Members Only)
- 7 Buckeye Lake Margaritas
- 8 Buckeye Lake Yacht Club (Members Only)
- 9 Chef Shack
- 10 Coffee Shack Coffee Roasters
- 11 Dips on the Lake
- 12 LaCabra Craft Kitchen
- 13 Louie's Corner House
- 14 Pizza Cottage
- 15 Whit's Frozen Custard

EXPLORE

- 1 3XP Tours
- 2 Buckeye Lake Museum
- 3 Crystal Beach
- 4 North Shore Boat Ramp

SHOP

- 1 Buckeye Lake Beer Pier
- 2 Buckeye Lake Hardware
- 3 Rittberger Market at the Lake
- 4 Yellow Sundress Boutique
- 5 Smoke on the Water

SERVICES

- 1 Buckeye Lake Anchors Away Storage
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- 3 Englefield Oil
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- 10 Licking County Library
- 11 North Valley Bank
- 12 Petplex Animal Hospital/Poorman Medical
- 13 RE/MAX 360
- 14 TLR and Associates
- 15 The Landings at Maple Bay
- 16 Village of Buckeye Lake



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Mayor Linda Goodman

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VILLAGE OF HEBRON LICKING COUNTY, OHIO

HISTORY · The Ohio-Erie Canal extended from Cleveland on Lake Erie to Portsmouth on the Ohio River, and was constructed through Hebron in 1828. Since the direction of these two major routes of transportation crossed directly in the center of Hebron, the area became known at that time as, “The Crossroads of Ohio,” and is still the nickname of the village to this day.

Today, Hebron is home to multiple local businesses and restaurants, Canal Park, Evans Park, the Ohio Canal Greenway, and more.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HEBRON

 | Learn more at [HebronVillage.org](https://www.HebronVillage.org)





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EXPLORE

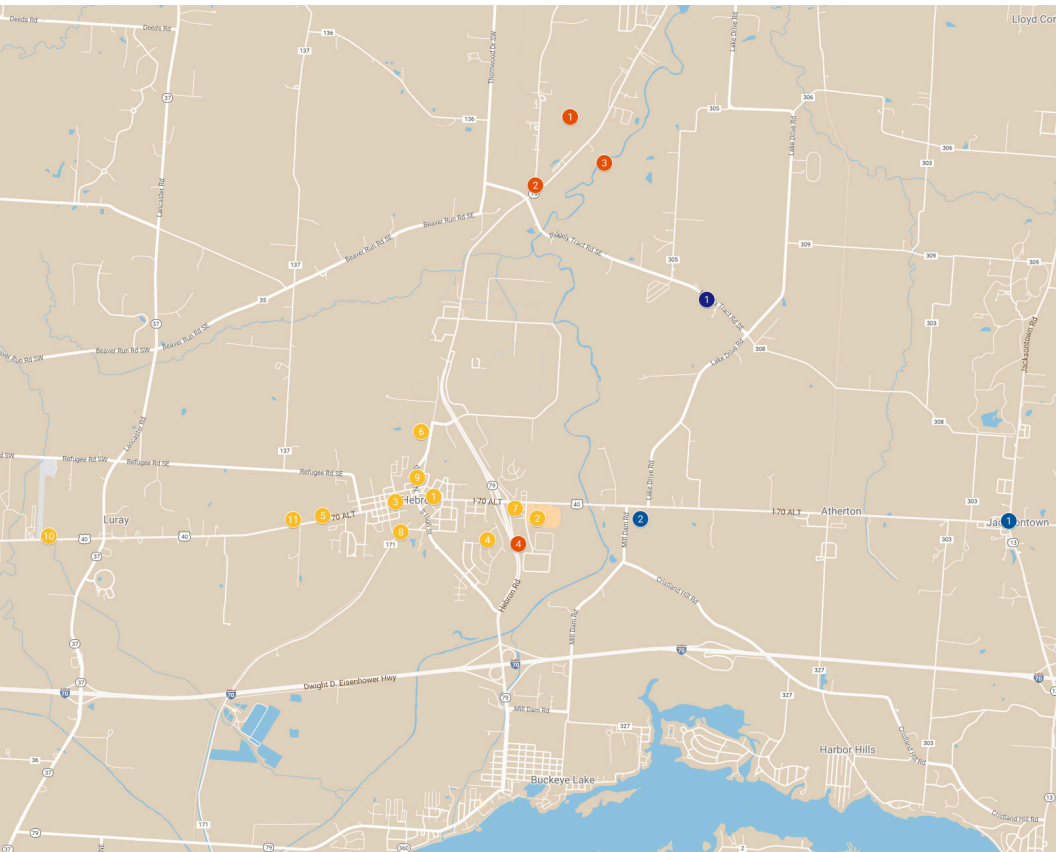
- 1 Mastodon Golf Club

SHOP

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- 3 RCD RV Supercenter
- 4 Vance Outdoors

SERVICES

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- 10 Robbco Marine
- 11 Village of Hebron



The Village of
HEBRON
Crossroads of Ohio
Where Our Paths Connect



Village of Hebron
934 West Main Street
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www.hebronvillage.org



Nestled in the south-central region of Licking County, Ohio, the Village of Hebron is home to charming establishments like Clay's Cafe and Hebron Dairy Bar, two beautiful parks, and a thriving business park. We are committed to sustainable growth while preserving the cherished small-town values that make Hebron unique. Whether you consider Hebron as your home, a destination to visit, or a place to establish your business, our village welcomes you with open arms!

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Buckeye Lake Region Corporation

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BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CORPORATION (BLRC)

is a non-profit organization open to all political and civic entities of the tri-county Buckeye Lake Region, created to coordinate and implement the mission outlined in BLR2036.

BUCKEYE LAKE 2036 is a grassroots declaration created January 2016 by over 270 volunteers to chart the growth of the Buckeye Lake Region, in order to improve the well-being and prosperity of its residents and businesses.

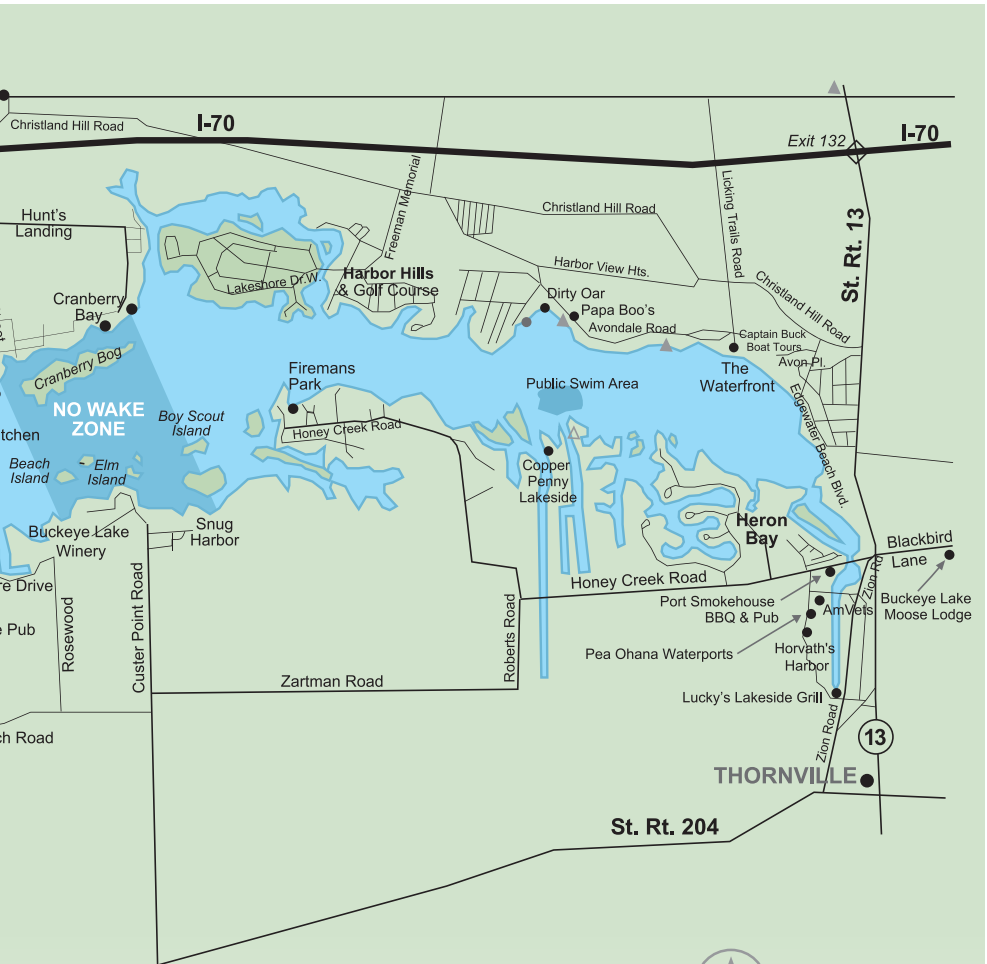
OUR CORE VALUES

RESPECT ▪ OPEN COMMUNICATIONS ▪ PRIORITY TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY FIRST ▪ DIVERSITY AND OPENNESS

For details please visit BLRC2036.org







f VISIT BUCKEYE LAKE 2036 ON FACEBOOK



Buckeye Lake Region Corporation

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Go to BLRC2036.org. There you will find the work that has been done by BLRC, along with the roster of board members, contact information, links to the Buckeye Lake Region Community Foundation and more. You may also want to check out “Buckeye Lake 2036” on Facebook for news and updates.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

YOUR IDEAS

Email mformataro@blrc2036.org or contact appropriate committee

YOUR SWEAT

Email mformataro@blrc2036.org or contact appropriate committee

YOUR TREASURE

BY CHECK:

Make payable to: The Columbus Foundation

Memo Line: The Buckeye Lake Region Community Foundation

Mail: The Columbus Foundation, Attn: Jeff Byars 1234 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205-1453

OR ONLINE:

Go to BLRFoundation.org and click on “DONATE NOW”

Thank you sincerely for your interest and support.

CHAMPIONS OF THE LAKE - MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:





THE BUCKEYE LAKE AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

WHAT IS THE BUCKEYE LAKE AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION?

BLACA is an organization of residents in and around Buckeye Lake that love the lake and its surrounding areas.

BLACA organizes events like the Tour of Homes, Reverse Raffle and The Spring Dinner to raise money for:

- Scholarships to selected local high school Seniors
- Local Charities
- Christmas gifts to local needy children
- Park Beautification
- The general welfare of the Buckeye Lake Region
- The support of Tri-County Food Pantries

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US: The annual membership is only **\$20** for a family and **\$50** for a Business. Have Fun and help Buckeye Lake!

BLACA Events

Spring Dinner- 3rd Wednesday of April

Reverse Raffle- 3rd Thursday in May

Boat Parade- July 4th

Tour of Homes - 2nd Sunday of August

Fall Dinner Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of September

Visit our Website: www.theblaca.org

P.O. Box 1106 Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008



VILLAGE OF MILLERSPORT FAIRFIELD COUNTY, OHIO

HISTORY · The village of Millersport was founded in 1825 by Mathias Miller as a port of trade on the Ohio-Erie Canal. A well-preserved portion of the canal cuts through the center of town, enhancing the colorful, picturesque community. Millersport is also the site of the annual Sweet Corn Festival, which first started in 1946 and is still a popular attraction to this day.

Explore this rural town and find local restaurants, cafes, shops, outdoor spaces, and the popular 100-year-old ice cream parlor, Weldon's Ice Cream Factory.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
HISTORY OF
MILLERSPORT

 | Learn more at [MillersportOhio.com](https://www.MillersportOhio.com)



EAT & DRINK

- 1 52 Nutrition
- 2 Docksider Donuts
- 3 Hereinafter Cocktail Tavern
- 4 Hometown Hot Dogs
- 5 Hook & Ladder
- 6 Karen's Bakery & Custom Cakes
- 7 LakeBound Pizza
- 8 Millersport Coffee
- 9 Pappy D's Island House
- 10 Si Señor Taco Mexican Grill
- 11 Weldon's Ice Cream Factory

EXPLORE

- 1 Buckeye Lake Walking & Biking Trail
- 2 Brooks Park Wetland Area
- 3 LakeBound Outfitters
- 4 Liebs Island Boat Ramp

SHOP

- 1 Buckeye Lake Place
- 2 Crabtree's Millersport Hardware
- 3 Guitart Parts Factory
- 4 Millersport Flowers
- 5 One Man's Treasure
- 6 Pidcailly Vintage Furniture

SERVICES

- 1 Buckeye Lake Marina
- 2 Feeder Creek Vet Services
- 3 Fisher's Marina
- 4 North Valley Bank
- 5 Thin Line Fitness of Ohio
- 6 Village of Millersport



DID YOU KNOW...

The Deep Cut canal in Millersport is approximately 4 miles in length and 32 feet deep!



Village of Millersport

Incorporated 1917

P.O. BOX 536
MILLERSPORT, OHIO 43046
PHONE: (740) 467-2333
FAX: (740) 467-2548

Mayor Gary Matheny
Village Administrator Vince Popo
Fiscal Officer Susan A. Ramsey
Billing Clerk Sandy Lines
Police Chief Mark Consolo
Street Commissioner Dan Phelps
Groundskeeper Gilbert Arnold
Water Superintendent John Wood
Water Technician Chase Wood
Sewer Superintendent Josh Lutz
Sewer Technician Roger Donnell
Park & Recreation Director Tom Nebbergall
Mathias Miller Park Coordinator Bonnie Stutske
President of Council Craig Cooperrider
Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson

Council Members and assigned committees

Rules & Service Committee: Chairperson James McKittrick, Rick Thompson and Beth Butler

Safety Committee: Chairperson Craig Cooperrider, Stephanie Helle and Dustin Bidwell

Finance Committee: Chairperson Dustin Bidwell, Stephanie Helle and Rick Thompson

Personnel, Lands, Buildings and Activities Committee: Chairperson Beth Butler, James McKittrick and Nicole Crossan

Hereinafter 

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VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE PERRY COUNTY, OHIO

HISTORY · Nestled in the northwest corner of Perry County, the village of Thornville was named for the numerous thorn bushes along the southern shore of Buckeye Lake, and spans into both Licking and Fairfield County.

The first explorer of this area was most likely Christopher Gist, who in 1750, began work for the Ohio Company, established by the British government to stem the flow of the French into what is now the State of Ohio.

Visitors can find beautiful Victorian homes, locally-owned eateries and businesses, a golf course, along with lakeside restaurants in this village. Thornville is also home to the large event and music venue,

Legend Valley, the Lions Club Country Fair, and the Thornville Backwoods Fest, a primitive arts, crafts, music, and food festival that draws in thousands of visitors each autumn.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
HISTORY OF
THORNVILLE

Located inside the village is the busy community of **THORNPORT**, where you can access the lake from the new Thorn Township Canoe/Kayak Launch.

 | Learn more at [Thornville.us](https://www.thornville.us)



EAT & DRINK

- 1 AMVETS Post 51 (Members Only)
- 2 Buckeye Lake Coffee Company
- 3 Champs Pizza & Pub
- 4 Haven's Copper Penny
- 5 Horvath's Harbor
- 6 Loyal Order of Moose 2434 (Members Only)
- 7 Lucky's Lakeside Grill
- 8 The Port Smokehouse

EXPLORE

- 1 Buckeye Lake Boat Rentals
- 2 Pea Ohana Watersports
- 3 Thorn Township Canoe/Kayak Launch

SHOP

- 1 Lake's End/Special T's
- 2 Thornville Hardware

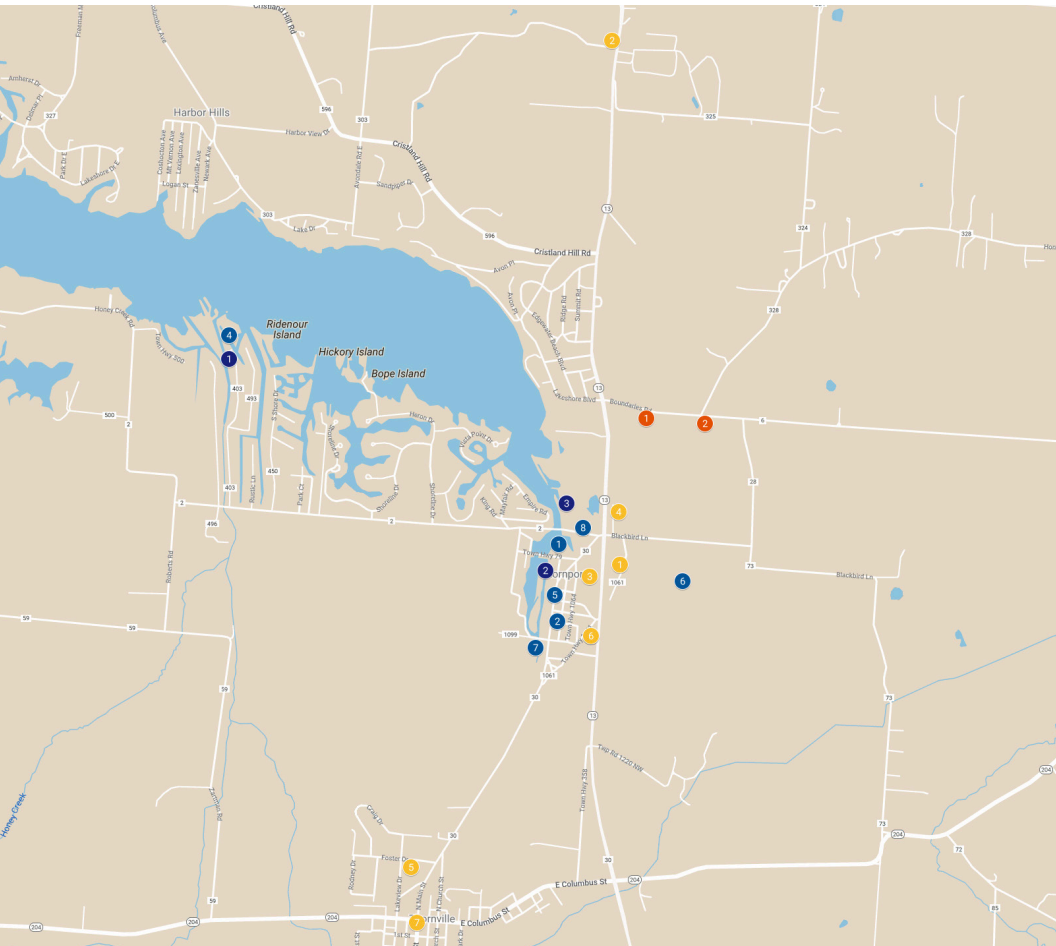
SERVICES

- 1 Buckeye Lake Shopper/Reporter
- 2 Englefield Oil
- 3 Peoples State Bank
- 4 Thompson Insurance
- 5 Thornville Medical Center
- 6 Turning Tails Pet Company
- 7 Village of Thornville



DID YOU KNOW...

Around the shore, you can spot a handful of lighthouses from both land or lake! How many can you find?





I love this town.

Thanks, Buckeye Lake.

I love being here to help in a community where people are making a difference every day.

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BUCKEYE LAKE AREA STAR SPANGLED TRADITION

Hundreds gather to watch the beautiful Buckeye Lake Area Star Spangled Tradition (B.L.A.S.S.T.) fireworks display over the lake, from the water and the shoreline!

Join this unique, annual celebration with friends and family this summer at Ohio's oldest state park.

Learn more @BuckeyeLakeBLASST on Facebook



JULY 3, 2024



2024 Buckeye Lake Area Star Spangled Tradition Fireworks – July 3rd, 2024

Celebrate **Buckeye Lake, Ohio's First State Park, turning 75!**

Local musician and entertainer, David Spires, has recorded many local musicians in a special rendition of the **Happy Birthday** song.

At 9:45 pm, tune into KOOL 101.7 radio, and have your phones & flashlights ready to light up the Lake as we all sing Happy Birthday to Buckeye Lake!

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Thank You to our 2024 Sponsors for their support of this beloved community tradition!

Special thanks to the Buckeye Lake ODNR staff and area 1st Responders for their support and dedication. Together, they keep our community safe during our celebration of Freedom - secured for all by our Veterans.

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BOOMER

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BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WINTERFEST

During a Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce board meeting, Trustee Mike Fornataro mentioned the idea of holding an event at the lake much like the festivities for Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney, PA. Fornataro had visited the large event and thought that because of the frigid, gray weather in Ohio, something like Groundhog Day could be special at Buckeye Lake. The discussion centered around what the chamber could do to boost the economy for the lake's region in the midst of winter. Perhaps there could be a way to replicate the success of the neighboring state's 200-year-old tradition. There was much discussion about groundhogs and various events that occur across Ohio. Soon, the chamber decided that much like Punxsutawney Phil, a fish mascot, of course, would be perfect for Buckeye Lake. They went back and forth on names including *Carl the Carp* (but no nobody likes carp), *Charlie the Catfish* (still a bottom feeder), when finally, they landed on the perfect title of *Benny the Bass*. After several more discussions, it was decided that this would be Buckeye Lake Winterfest which would be held on the last Saturday in January, kicking off at dawn.

Growing in popularity since then and grabbing the attention of TV and radio stations across Ohio, locals and visitors alike can enjoy early-morning music as they wait anxiously to see Benny the Bass' prognostication! Minnows are added to Benny's tank at 7 a.m. when a timer is then set for three minutes. If Benny eats one during that time frame, it means that an early spring is on its way. Following the ever-popular bass' prediction is a fireworks show for the large crowd to enjoy, officially signaling the start of Winterfest weekend!

Each year, the chamber sells Winterfest tumblers sporting the Benny the Bass logo and provides a handy map to find all the different participating chamber businesses in the region. Businesses host live music, drink and food specials, art shows, and more from sunrise to sunset. If you're lucky, you may even run into the Benny the Bass mascot as they travel around the lake during the all-day event.

The BLRCC board members work hard to make Winterfest an event that the region can be proud of, providing an economic boost and fun weekend-long event to the Buckeye Lake Region during the lake's off-season.



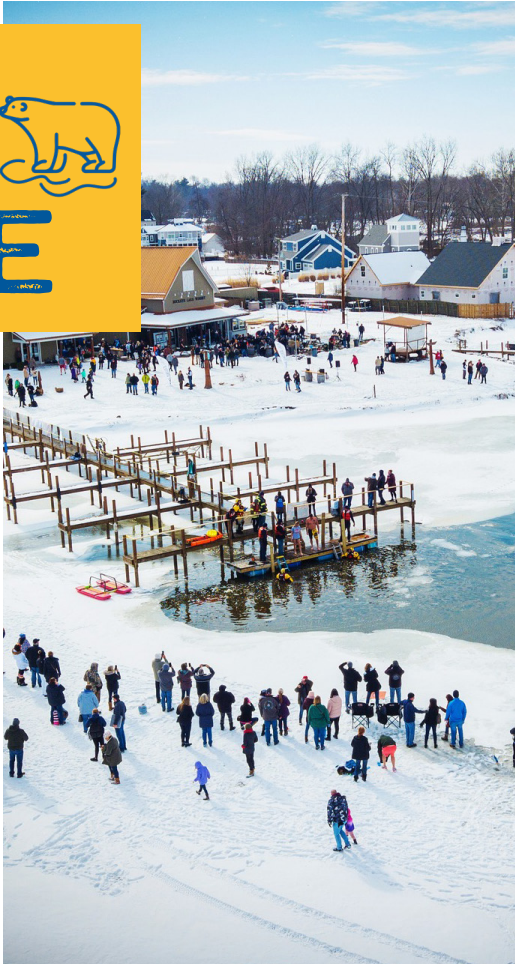
Check out BuckeyeLakeCC.com or the BLRCC Buckeye Lake Winterfest Facebook page for more information and updates on this annual event.

BUCKEYE LAKE WINERY

POLAR PLUNGE



The Buckeye Lake Winery hosted the first annual Polar Plunge in 2014 with over 300 people gathering to both watch and participate in jumping into the lake's frigid waters. Since the Plunge started, it's only grown in popularity and has helped raise thousands of dollars for local charities. Whether you plan to take the plunge or stand on the shore to support, enjoy all-day live music, games, and prizes during this fun (and chilly) Buckeye Lake event, held on the last Sunday of January every year.





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EVENTS AROUND THE LAKE

JANUARY

WINTERFEST

BUCKEYELAKECC.COM/WINTERFEST
LAST SATURDAY IN JANUARY

Join Benny the Bass before the sun rises to see if he “takes the bait” and predicts an early spring or refuses, which means 6 more weeks of winter! Regardless, celebrate with fireworks, activities around the lake, live music, art shows, food and drink specials, food trucks, and more.

POLAR PLUNGE

BUCKEYELAKEWINERY.COM
LAST SUNDAY IN JANUARY

Join the Polar Plunge at the Buckeye Lake Winery as participants jump into the cold water of the lake to help raise money for charity.

MAY

PIRATE FEST

BUCKEYELAKEPIRATEFEST.COM
MAY 18, 2024

Take part in a lake-wide treasure hunt at Buckeye Lake! Enjoy a vendor show with activities for families and grab a map with the location of hidden treasure chests around the lake.

JUNE

BUCKEYE LAKE STATE PARK 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

JUNE 8, 2024 | 10AM-3PM | LIEBS ISLAND
 Enjoy live music, a car show, food trucks, ice cream, artists, vendors, and more as we celebrate the 75th birthday of Ohio's oldest state park at Liebs Island!

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BUCKEYELAKEWINERY.COM
JUNE 15, 2024

Held at the Buckeye Lake Winery, this event is completely free to enjoy. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy delicious wine, stunning lake views, and cool boats!

JULY

BUCKEYE LAKE AREA STAR SPANGLED TRADITION (B.L.A.S.S.T.)

FACEBOOK.COM/BUCKEYELAKEBLASST
JULY 3, 2024

Watch the beautiful Buckeye Lake Area Star Spangled Tradition (B.L.A.S.S.T.) fireworks display over the lake from the water or on the shore!

4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE
BUCKEYELAKECIVICASSOCIATION.ORG
JULY 4, 2024

Residents and visitors alike celebrate Independence Day each year with a fun, patriotic boat parade!

AUGUST

**BUCKEYE LAKE
TOUR OF HOMES**

BUCKEYELAKECIVICASSOCIATION.ORG
AUGUST 11, 2024

Relax on this one-hour pontoon boat ride visiting the beautiful homes and islands at Buckeye Lake.

TOUR DE BUCKEYE LAKE

BIKEBUCKEYELAKE.ORG
AUGUST 17, 2024

Bike for a benefit! Help fundraise for trail development, safety, and bikes for underprivileged children - with different route options, a beer garden, live music, and food options!

**MILLERSPORT SWEET
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AUGUST 28-30, 2024

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SEPTEMBER

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THORNVILLEBACKWOODSFEST.COM
SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2024

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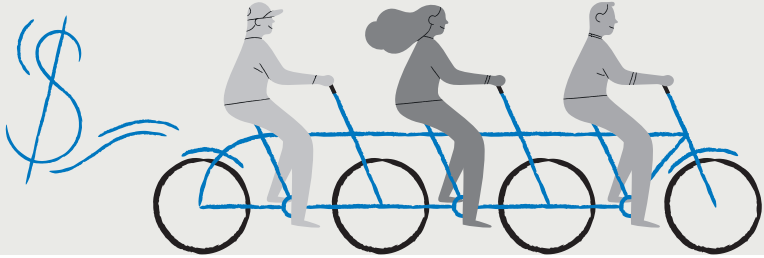
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 Explore Licking County/Greater Licking County CVB
 EYECARE ABOUT YOU
 Fairfield County Visitors Bureau/Visit Fairfield County

Fairhope Hospice
Fedor, Jim and JoAnn
Feeder Creek Vet Services, Inc.
Financial Advisors Resources
Fisher's Marina
Flannagan's
Focus Logistics Solutions
Ford & Assoc. Architects, Inc.
Frear, Jeanne
Friends of the Buckeye Lake Library
Fulfillment Center
Geenex Solar/Eastern Cottontail Solar
Gerling and Associates
Golden Oak Financial Services
Greater Buckeye Lake Historical Society
Green Lighting Wholesale
Grunden, Rickie Sue
Guitar Parts Factory
H and A Mechanical
HA Agency LLC
Hampton Inn
HangUps Mark Russell
Harbor Hills Country Club
Hartford Township
Haven's Copper Penny
Havens Family Dental LLC
Hayden, Charlene
Heartland Bank
Heartland Payroll Systems
Hereinafter Cocktail Tavern LLC
HHS & Company LLC
High Tech Construction
Hines Litle Smiles
Hi-Way Paving
HOKUTO, USA
Hollycross, Donna
Hook and Ladder/Knot a Firehouse LLC
Horvath Vision Care Inc.
Horvath's Harbor/Buckeye Lake Coffee Co.
Hoskinson Funeral and Cremation Services
Hospice of Central Ohio
Howard Hanna Debbi Popo
Howard Hanna Lisa Stewart
Howland Autohaus, LLC
Hupman, Barbara
Ideal Promotions LLC Steve Hitchcock
Illuminate USA
Industry Insights
Into Great Brands
James Vaughn Insurance
Jaro Transportation
Joseph Rossi and Son's Funeral Home, Inc
Kapit Marketing LLC
Keller Williams Greater Columbus Cat Howard
Team Live
Ken Ventures DBA Hand & Stone Krista Neal
Kessler Sign Company
King Memory Center
KK--Guard, LLC
Kohr Royer and Griffith
Kuhns, Brody
Lady on the Lake
Lake 98
Lake Area Transport Services/Ohio Party Bus
LakeBound Pizza & LakeBound Outfitters
Lake Docks Unlimited

Lake's End/Special T's
Lakewood School District
Leeuwenburg Consulting LLC
Leisa Davis/Parker Real Estate
Lepi and Associates Real Estate Roberta Lepi
Lepi and Associates Real Estate Services
Christy Buck
Liberty Industrial Services
Licking County Auditor's Office
Licking County Chamber of Commerce
Licking County Library
Licking County Soil & Water Conservation
District
Linden Lighting and Supply Co.
Louie's Corner House
Lucky's Lakeside Grill
Luke's Auto
Magic Needle
Maresca, Louis
Mastodon Golf Club
McNaghten, Lori
Merchant Focus Processing
Meredith Brothers
Merlin Packaging Technology
Metro Heating & Air Conditioning
Michael Cullop Roofing
Mid City Auto Body
Mid Ohio Golf Car
Mid-Ohio Psychological Srvs, Inc.
Mill Dam Corner Grill
Miller, Kevin
Millersport Coffee
Millersport Flowers
Moose Lodge 2434
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
Neat and Discreet Cleaning Service LLC
Nelson Automotive Services
Newlon Tire
North Valley Bank
Northtowne Heating
NPAS Inc.
Ohio Moving and Alliance Worldwide
Ohio Ophthalmology
Ohio State Troopers Association
Ohio Support Services
Ohio Wire Form and Spring Company
Ohlinger Publishing
Oliver Sign Co.
Oliver, Erna
Ologie, LLC
One Man's Treasure
Orthopedic Bracing Specialists/Infinity
Orthopedics
Outerbelt Brewing
Pal Printing, LLC
Papa Boo's
Pappy D's Island House
Pathways of Licking County
Pea Ohana LLC
Perry County Tribune/APG
Petplex Animal Hospital/Poorman Medical
Phantom Fireworks
Pinnacle Landscaping
Pizza Cottage/LT Pizza Co. LLC
Plumbers and Factory Supply
Precision Shower and Glass

Prescribe Fit
 Producers Inc.
 PXP Ohio Dowsco Inc
 Pymmer, Seth and Sherry
 Q Start Labs
 Rain One Inc.
 Ramp Creek III
 RCD Sales
 Recovery One
 Reliance Bottle and Gas
 RE/MAX 360, Judith Green
 Rescue Rooter American Residential Services
 Retirement Wealth Strategies
 Rine Landscape Group
 Rittberger Meats
 Riverwest Management
 Robbco Marine
 Roger C. Perry & Co.
 Roland, Christian
 Ronk Construction
 S77, Inc.
 Schilling, Steve
 Schneider Insurance Agency
 Schooley Caldwell Associates
 Shepherd, Steve
 Shrivvers Hospice Foundation
 Si Senor Taco Mexican Grill
 SJS Enterprises LLC
 Skrobot, David and Betsy
 Sleep Care Inc.
 SMD Wynne Corp
 Smith Girl Art Gayla Smith
 Smoke on the Water
 Southern Perry County Water District
 Stanton Sheet Music
 State Farm Beth Moore Agency
 State Farm Ins. JoAnn Mcfarland
 Stellar-1 Communications Inc.
 Steps Agency
 Stoneworks Partners LLC/The Landing at
 Maple Bay
 Superior Logistics Ohio LLC
 Tansky Automart, Inc.
 Tata Excavating, Inc.
 Team Miron Wrestling
 TEAM NDT LLC
 TEK Experts
 Tenet Construction Services
 Tevis, Melissa
 The Boatyard at Buckeye Lake/LaCabra
 The Church Next Door
 The Dirty Oar
 The Dixon Team Keller Williams Greater
 Columbus
 The Electric Connection
 The Harbor Community Center
 The Mastadon Golf Club LLC
 The Port Smokehouse
 The Tony Adams Agency/State Farm
 The Village of Hebron
 Thin Line Fitness of Ohio
 Third Street Digital
 Thompson Insurance
 Thornville Family Medical Center
 Thornville Hardware
 Thorp, Randy

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 TLR & Associates Inc.
 Top Cat Tom Wolfe
 Torchia, Christie and Jimmy
 Town Crier (Freedom Enterprises)
 Turning Tails Pet Company
 Turnko LLC
 Tymex Plastics Inc.
 UMCH Family Services
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 Village of Millersport
 Village of Thornville
 Vision Advisory Group Karen Cookston
 Wadley, Sue
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 Waterfront on Buckeye Lake/CAAT 141
 Watkins Island Foundation
 Weldon's Ice Cream Company
 WHIT'S Buckeye Lake
 Willco Tech LLC
 Willis Engineering & Surveying
 Worthington United Methodist
 Y Bridge Broadcasting
 Yellow Sundress Resale Boutique
 Yu Insurance and Financial Services Inc.
 Zagar Inc.
 Zwissler, Kitty



Buckeye Lake Region
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VISIT
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 FOR MORE INFORMATION
 ABOUT OUR CHAMBER
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 ADDRESSES, PHONE
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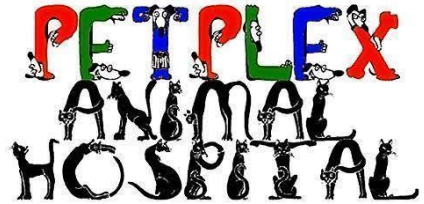
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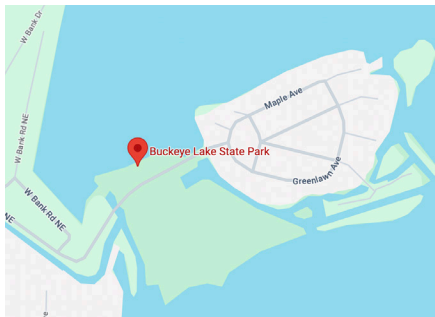


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PARK MANAGER

Mark Hoffhines
mark.hoffhines@dnr.ohio.gov
(740) 527-4219

PARK HOURS

Open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Visitors
are permitted to actively engage
in legitimate recreational activities
outside these hours. If you have
questions, call the park office.

ABOUT THE

Chamber

The Buckeye Lake Region has seen a metamorphosis and enthusiasm in development and entrepreneurship in the area. The Chamber's goal is to promote a business environment benefitting the Buckeye Lake Region. This happens through membership and networking.

The Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce is committed to the improvement of the communities it serves through volunteering time, efforts, and sponsorship to local causes. We offer many opportunities to be involved in the region, and to make your business more visible.

2024-2025 OFFICERS

TIM RYAN · PRESIDENT
BRODY KUHN · VICE PRESIDENT
ROXANNE BAILEY · SECRETARY
BRENDAN UNDERWOOD · TREASURER

2024-2025 TRUSTEES

JOHN DONEFF **JIM WARD**
DAVE KESSLER **TOM WOLFE**
DEBBI POPO
LISA STEWART

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Expanded discounts and opportunities through the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance.
- A listing on our website at BuckeyeLakeCC.com.
- Opportunity to advertise in The Greater Buckeye Lake Region Tour Book distributed throughout the area.
- Your business listed in the directory of the Tour Book.
- Meetings providing opportunities to educate members about your business and distribute business materials.
- Many reduced-cost benefits through alliances with other chambers.
- Opportunity to offer Business-to-Business discounts to increase awareness and expand your customer base.
- Opportunity to officially participate in the annual BLRCC Winterfest.
- Updates from local and state officials, business leaders and area civic associations, etc.
- Networking at Business After Hours events.



TOUR DE BUCKEYE LAKE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We invite anyone interested in the betterment of the Buckeye Lake Region to join the Chamber. You can do this online by visiting BuckeyeLakeCC.com or by filling out the application below along with your check to:

BUCKEYE LAKE REGION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 5
Buckeye Lake, Ohio 43008-0005

Yes, I would like to join the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce

BUSINESS NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____

ALTERNATE PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

WEBSITE: _____

- \$100** - Business or Professional Member
- \$100** - Associate Member
- \$225** - Outside Area Business or Professional Member*

*Outside Area is deemed as being outside of Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Counties. Business Members shall be those persons engaged in any business or professional activity. Associate Members shall be those persons interested in the betterment of the Buckeye Lake Region, but who are not directly engaged in any business or professional activity.

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The 2024-2025 Tour Book is a publication of the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce (BLRCC). The BLRCC and partner, Escape to Buckeye Lake, cannot be held responsible for errors or changes that occur after printing. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide, the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce and all those involved in the design and publishing of the Buckeye Lake Region 2024-2025 Tour Book assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. All information is subject to change. The Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce has all rights reserved regarding the Buckeye Lake Region Tour Book. No portion of the Tour Book may be reproduced without written consent.

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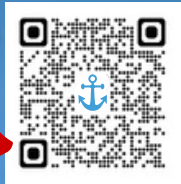


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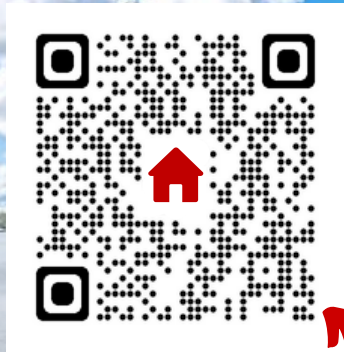
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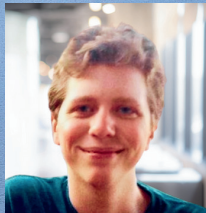
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