

Depot News from Painesville



THE DEPOT DISPATCH

End of the Open Season



With November 1st comes the end of our open tour season. Our tour guides have done a great job and deserve a big thank you for all the hours they have put in. **THANK YOU!!!**

Our next Dine to Donate at the Texas Roadhouse is on November 6th. 10 percent of your food bill is donated to the museum. Give Mom a break and take her out for a **GREAT** meal and help our museum. See page 3.

The interactive display for the Engine Barn is up and running in time for our Fundraiser Dinner. Thank you to the Visitors Bureau for the grant which paid for it. See page 4.

We have just two events before the end of the year.

One is our Hand Made Market (Art and Craft Show) on Saturday, November 29th. See page 12.

The second is our Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 13th. A very big thank you to Paul Hack for his donation to pay

for the dinner. See page 14

Dues are due as of January 1st 2026. At the January 2025 membership meeting we voted to revise our bylaws it will increase the membership dues by \$10.00.

At the January 2026 meeting we will be voting for two of our BOD members. Frances Meinke and Dan Chuppa are up for re-election.

This has been a very busy season.

Be safe. *Tom Pescha*, V.P.



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**This months Membership meeting is November 11, 2025
BOD meeting is November 25, 2025**



Upcoming Dates and Events

- Nov. 6, Dine to Donate, Texas Roadhouse**
- Nov. 11, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm**
- Nov. 22, TCA Thanksgiving Train Show, Berea 10-3**
- Nov. 25, BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm**
- Nov. 29, Hand Made Market 9 - 2**
- Dec. 11, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm**
- Dec. 15, Christmas Dinner 4:30 pm**
- Dec. 20, 999 Mug Night**
- Dec. 25, BOD Membership Meeting - Cancelled**

For a complete list of locations of Train and Toy Shows visit www.cleveshows.com

Depot Dispatch

The Depot Dispatch is an official publication of The Western Reserve Railroad Association, Painesville Railroad Museum, Painesville, Ohio. It is published approximately once a month and is posted on the Depot Website free of charge. An electronic version of the newsletter will be emailed to members and a hard copy will be available at the Depot upon request.. Information regarding The Depot Dispatch, Depot activities and events may be obtained by writing to 3942 E. 364th St., Willoughby, Ohio 44094 or sending an e-mail to cleveshows@att.net. The Depot Dispatch and Depot activities and special events are funded by open houses, contributions, donations and annual fundraisers. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in The Depot Dispatch do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the Western Reserve Railroad Association.



THE WESTERN RESERVE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

DBA

PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org

501(c)3 Non-profit



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Dine to Donate

Our partnership with Texas Roadhouse continues! Any previously purchased gift cards can be used on Dine to Donate day **Thursday, November 6th**.

This is great because the museum gets 10% of the gift card sales and then we get 10% of your food bill at the Dine to Donate event.

This means we get a total of 20%



6095 Commerce Circle
Willoughby, OH

Download our Mobile App to join the
waitlist or place a To-Go Order

FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» **Support** ««

THE WESTERN HERITAGE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
The Painesville Railroad Museum

Thursday **November 6, 2025**
3pm-9pm

10%

DONATION NIGHT

Support Painesville Railroad Museum
present this flyer to the 6095 Commerce
Circle Location and Texas Roadhouse will
donate 10% of your total food
purchases!

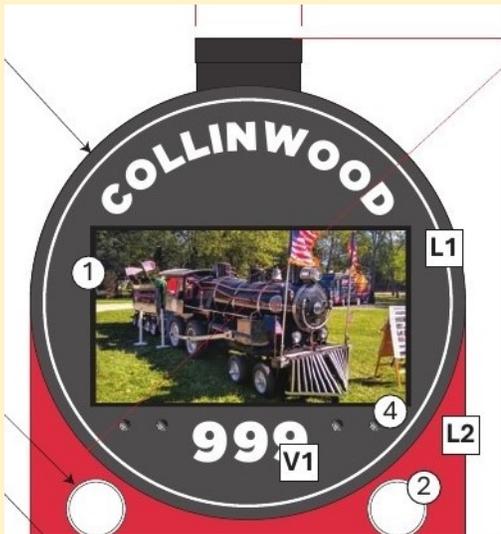
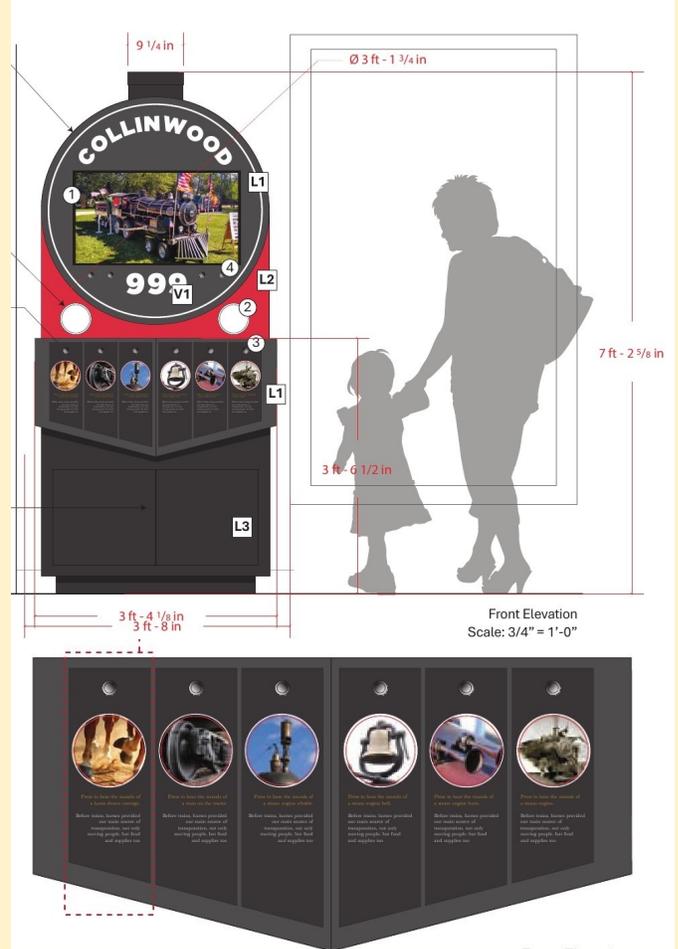
Truck or Treat at Texas Roadhouse

We were part of the Truck or Treat at Texas Roadhouse with the Collinwood 999 Engine. All the kids, big and small loved it. Thank you Dan Chuppa and George Bagnal for driving the 999 and Dave Green for the escort.



Interactive Display

Our new interactive Display is complete . The Display looks like the front end of the Collinwood 999 engine and have push buttons to play different videos including the Collinwood 999 engine, building of the Engine Barn, the Horse Drawn Trolley and moving our CSX Box Car. It will also have buttons for different railroad sounds.



Fundraiser Dinner

On Saturday, October 25th, 2025 the Painesville Railroad Museum held its 5th annual dinner at the depot. With 45 guest attending, what a great event it was. Live music by "Young and Blue" was outstanding with the country music. Neil Stein, Executive Director of the Tour Lake County (Visitor Bureau) was present to share with us the latest grant which paid for the Interactive Display in the 999 Engine Barn. John Plecnik, Lake County Commissioner, was also present to present awards for the Hall of Fame new members. The food was over the top for Riders IGA in Perry and Texas Roadhouse salads and dinner rolls.

And what can anyone say about all the baskets for the Chinese Raffle. There were over 37 baskets, most of which were made by my wife, Luisa. Thank you for the great job of making the baskets.





Neil Stein and his wife Julie



John Plesnik



Hall of Fame

By George Anderson

We, who are members of the family of the Painesville Railroad Museum have been truly blessed from God above. We have been chosen to be the custodians of this historic 132 year old Depot, which when it was opened was dubbed the "Gem of Painesville". We are the title holders of Land that runs the length of Railroad Street. We have in the past been permitted to expand from the Depot to our western boundary. And in the future hope for the grace to continue our growth to our eastern end.

We have been most fortunate to be the recipients of exceedingly generous gifts and grants without which most of what we see today would not be here. I will not attempt to name these magnanimous individuals and organizations because there are so many. I do not want to risk leaving any out. You know who you are, and we know who you are. From the bottom of our hearts we say thank you.

At the core of the Painesville Railroad Museum are our volunteers without whom the wheels of our progress would not be able to turn. Individuals who could have spent their time doing something for themselves, but have rather chosen to do something for others. People who have devoted themselves to do their parts in preserving history and to tell its story. To all you who have tirelessly labored in so many different ways to make the Painesville Railroad Museum into what it is today, we say a most grateful thank you.

Now, we, the membership of the Painesville Railroad Museum,

have the opportunity to recognize, to honor certain individuals, who have over time, rendered such extraordinary service that merits their induction into our Hall of Fame. Tonight we have the privilege of inducting three such champions. I call them all champions because they have all persevered and triumphed in their love and loyal service to the Museum despite experiencing serious health blows, which would have felled lesser men. Now, for our inductees.

We wish to also thank John Plecnik, Lake County Commissioner, for his awards from the Lake County Commissioners.



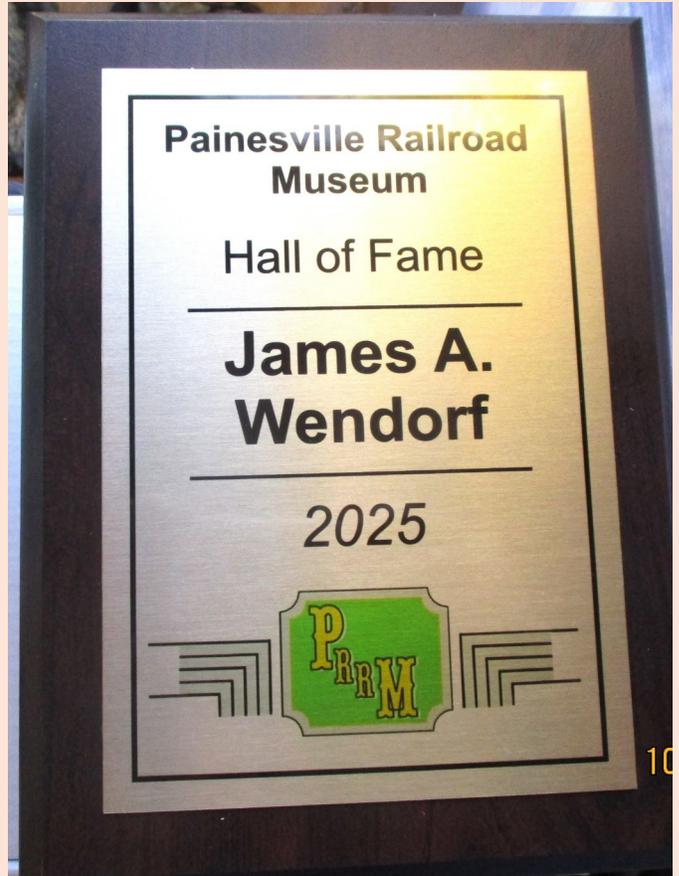
Jim Wendorf:

Jim Wendorf. Across this country we have known the sadness when grand old buildings that represent our heritage, our history have been felled by the wrecking ball of progress. The task, the time, the expense of preserving such landmarks can be overwhelming. Jim Wendorf was amongst a group of individuals, who said, "Let it not be so, not here, not now, not ever". Because of his work and that of many other passionate volunteers, we are here today, in this grand old train station, celebrating its preservation. We also celebrate the labors of those who saved this building and helped the Painesville Railroad Museum grow into the organization that it is today. Would our charter members please stand up and be recognized (Jim Wendorf, Rob Romig, Barry Usko, Al D'Iroio and Dennis Marano). Thank you.

As one of our original charter members, Jim Wendorf was here in 1997 when the Western Reserve Railroad Association (our legal name) was formed. Jim has served as a member of the Board of Directors since our inception. In addition to that, he has since 2014 held the position of President. Jim has been instrumental with the restoration of our Museum. Using his civil engineering skills it was his firm hands that helped design and guide the building of our Collinwood Engine Barn.

To our President, our Captain, our Visionary, who has kept us focused and on

task of fulfilling all the potential offered to us at this Museum, we say thank you and with much gratitude offer you this plaque signifying your induction into the Painesville Railroad Museum Hall of Fame.



10/28/2025

Tom Pescha:

Tom Pescha. There are not enough words in the English language to describe all the ways that you have given of yourself to our Museum. If I were to try, in a phrase to describe what you mean to us, then I would say that you are our "Heart and Soul".

I think it is also fair to say that Tom is the face of our Museum. Whether it be with local governmental officials, members of the various media, profit and non-profit organizations, when you mention the Painesville Railroad Museum, then it is Tom's name that first comes up. Whenever we receive a request to speak about the Museum, railroads or trolleys, then it is Tom, who is front and center fulfilling that request.

Tom Pescha is a man of many, many hats. He has been a member of the Museum since 2010, and even before that for two years helping out as an advisor. Tom became a member of our Board of Directors in 2010 and has also served as our Vice President since 2014. Now, if all those duties of administrative management were not challenging, then lay on top of them the time consuming responsibilities of being our Web Master, our Dispatch News Letter Editor and the Grant Writer for our Museum. But we still are not even close to being done.

Whenever you see an event going on here, you can bet that Tom Pescha was instrumental in its planning and functioning. From the publicity whether it be flyers, newspapers, radio or social media, Tom was involved. From the staffing, Tom had his hand in it. From the food and drink, Tom probably picked it up and brought it here. And if a gov-

ernmental permit was needed, Tom was there seeing that it was issued.

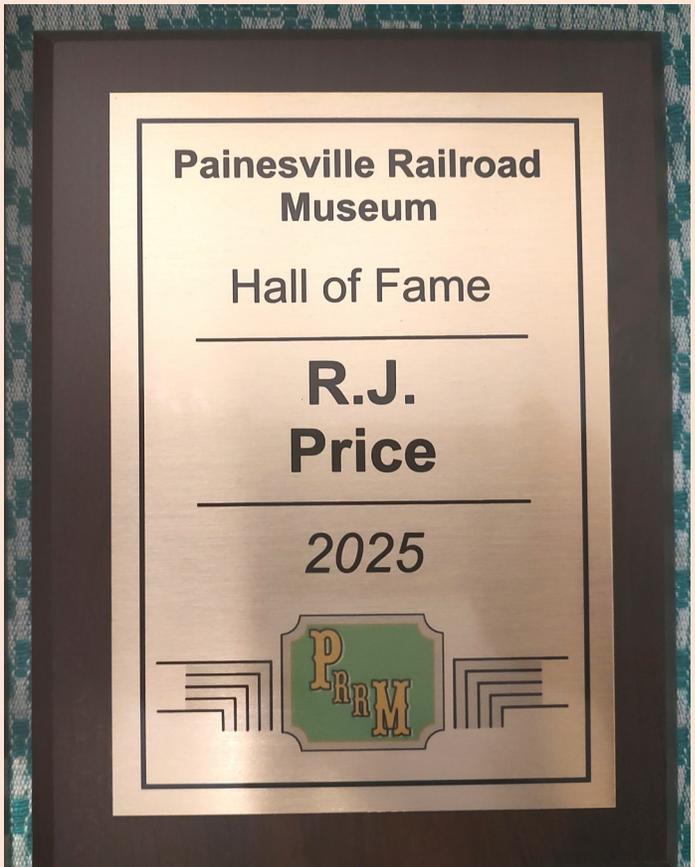
To your wife, Luisa, I want to say thank you for sharing Tom with us. We know that it has also been no little sacrifice on your part.

To Tom Pescha, our friend, our Soul and Heart, congratulations and job well done as we present you this plaque commemorating your induction into the Painesville Railroad Museum's Hall of Fame.



RJ Price:

RJ Price joined the Museum back in 2018. He has served in many different roles. RJ has been a member of our Board of Directors. He has been an officer serving as the Museum's Treasurer. He has in the past assumed the immense, time consuming duty of overseeing the management and upkeep of our Depot and grounds. Just imagine, from Elm Street all the way to North State Street, the lawn mowing, the weed whacking and everything else that could possibly happen to a property of this immense size. Place on top of that, the maintenance of a rather large and quite dusty 132 year old train depot. But that is not all. In addition, RJ has overseen the maintenance of our 93 year old 999 Engine. For anybody who is familiar with the 999 Engine, she can be quite the cranky old lady.



RJ, it is with great affection and appreciation that we present you with this plaque commemorating this day as we induct you into our Hall of Fame.





Join us at The Historic Painesville Railroad Museum (aka NYC Painesville Depot) on Saturday, November 29th, 2025, from 9 am – 3 pm for The Handmade Market. We will be hosting an array of Quality Handmade Artisans and Crafters for this special Art and Craft Show on Small Business Saturday.

Be sure to visit our bake sale. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and chips will be available for a small donation. And don't forget our Chinese Auction.

Shop Small, Shop Local, Buy Handmade and Preserve History at the Museum. Join the Movement!!

Admission is FREE, Donation accepted and appreciated

Painesville Railroad Museum,
475 Railroad Street,
Painesville, Ohio
44077

440-655-4455

The Handmade Market
Art and Craft Show
Hand-Crafted

November 29, 2025
9 am. to 3 pm.

PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM
(NYC Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077
Admission: **FREE**
For Info:
440-655-4455
prmevent@att.net

Chinese Raffle

Bake Sale

Join us at The Painesville Railroad Museum for The Handmade Market. We will be hosting an array of Quality Handmade Artisans and Crafters for Small Business Saturday. Shop Small, Shop Local, Buy Handmade and Preserve History at the Museum. Join the Movement!!

Refreshments Available

Direction to Painesville Depot
East on I-90 (exit 200) to Rt. 44
North on Rt. 44 to Rt. 2
East on Rt. 2 (1.5 miles) to OH 535 / OH 283 (exit 223)
South on OH 283 for 200 feet, left turn (east onto Chester St.)
East on Chester St (0.7 miles) to North State Street
South on North State Street (under RR bridge) to Railroad Street.

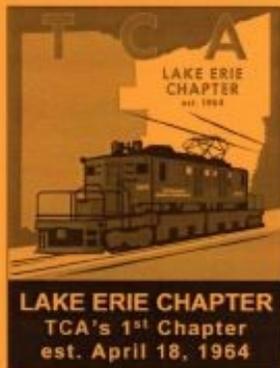
www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org
501(c)3 non-profit

Proceeds to help the restoration and preservation of the historic Painesville Depot and bring her back to its glory days of the NYC.



TCA Thanksgiving Train Show

We've Moved!



**Thanksgiving
Train Show**

NEW DATE TOO!

Saturday

November 22, 2025

10am to 3pm

Join us at our New Home, the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

164 Eastland Road, Berea, OH 44017

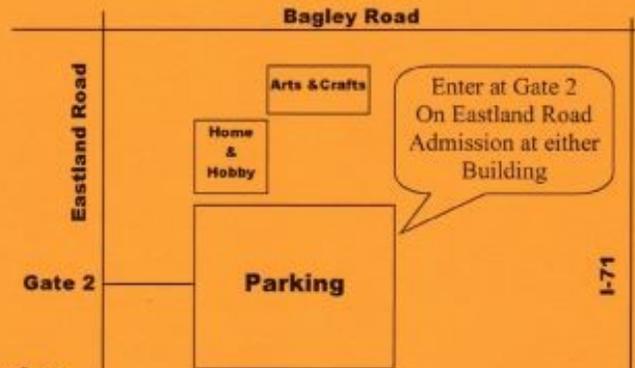
After Many Years in Parma, We Needed a Bigger Station to Park our Caboose

Admission \$6.00 each, Families \$10.00, Kids 17 & Under FREE, with Adult

**We Have More Dealer Tables
Larger Operating Layout
Bigger Parking Lot**

Plus Everything You've Come to Expect at Our Shows & More!

- **FREE Parking**
- **Handicapped Accessible**
- **New & Old Trains**
- **Many Brands & Scales**
- **Parts, Repair Manuals, Etc.**
- **Kid's Scavenger Hunt**
- **Huge 14 foot Kid's Layout**
Where the kids run the trains!!!
- **\$5 Train Set Raffle**
- **Refreshments Available**
- **Test Track: check them before you buy**



FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT: JOHN AT (330)273-6404 OR TCALAKEERIE@GMAIL.COM

The TCA Thanksgiving Train Show is on Saturday, November 22, 2025. Hours of the show are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and setup is 7 a.m. We have three tables.

Again this year the Christmas dinner will be catered, so we will need a head count to order the correct amount of food. Please **RSVP** Tom Pescha by email at cleveshows@att.net or call him at 216-470-5780 ***no later than Thursday November 30.***

Menu

Tossed Green Salad
Italian and Ranch Dressing on the side
HoBo Beans
Breaded Chicken
Mixed vegetables
Au Gratin Potatoes
Rigatoni and Meat Balls
Cake for desert.



And a very big Thank You to Paul Hach for his donation to pay for our dinner.



You are Cordially invited
to our
Christmas Dinner
at the
Painesville Railroad
Museum.
Saturday
December 13, 2025
4:30 pm
475 Railroad Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077

At our January 2025 membership meeting, our bylaws were revised, it increased our membership dues. This is the first increase in over 10 years. **Dues are due Jan. 1st.**

The Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street
Painesville, Ohio 44077

email: prrm@att.net

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org



RE: Membership renewal

Dear Member:

It has been a pleasure having you as a member of the Painesville Railroad Museum. As the year is coming to an end, so is your membership. We wish to keep you as a member by having you re-new your membership.

Dues are due January 1, 2026.

Renewal cost is:

\$40.00 per year for single membership or

\$60.00 per year for family membership

Please provide name(s) and any of your contact information that needs to be updated, please do so by completing the form below.

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Make Check payable to
'WRRRA

The Western Reserve Railroad Association

Doing Business as

The Painesville Railroad Museum

A 501(c)3 Non-profit

Please Check Areas of Interest

Museum Volunteer _____

Typical Opportunities Tour Guide, Receptionist, Gift shop sales.

Museum Collections: _____

Typical Opportunities: ac-cessions (additions to collec-tions).

Building & Grounds Maintenance _____

Typical Opportunities: car-pentry, painting, basic electri-cal, plumbing, grass cutting.

Model Train Layouts _____

Typical Opportunities: Oper-ate and Maintain.

Food Service _____

Typical Opportunities: Baked goods, Food serving and set-up, clean up for special events.

Days Available

___ Tuesday ___ Wednesday

___ Thursday ___ Friday

___ Saturday



Revision Date: 9-25-25