

Depot News from Painesville



THE DEPOT DISPATCH

Spring is Coming?



Winter just will not leave us. We are starting to see some warmer days, but followed by more cold nights.

Our President's Day Celebration was over the top. This was a joint venture with the Lake County Historical Society. We had over 55 guests join us with many being their first time at the museum.

George and Edna set up a table to display our museum at an America 250 event at Lakeland.

Railfest Dinner is just around the corner on March 21st, 2026. This year guest speaker is: Dan Rager author of - "Ohio - Gateway to America" deals with Ohio's transportation, including Indian Trails, Stage Coaches, Building Canals and Railroads, just to name a few.

Railfest Model Train Show will be here before you know it. We have 10 tables. (See page 9).

We have also added a ghost

hunt on the anniversary of the Lincoln Funeral Train passing by our station on April 28, 1865. (see page 11)

Model Train Day is just around the corner on May 23rd. (see page 12)

May 1st, which is a Friday, starts our open season for the summer.

As we have now expanded our WiFi to the Engine Barn we are now in the process of adding new security cameras in the barn.

We are looking at redesigning our web page.

Be safe.

Tom Pescha, V.P.

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**This months Membership meeting is March 10, 2026
BOD meeting is March 24, 2026**



Upcoming Dates and Events

- Feb 26 - March 8 "O" Gauge Train Sale**
 - March 10, 2026 Membership meeting, Depot 6 pm**
 - March 21, 2026 Railfest Dinner Depot 5:30 pm**
 - March 21-22 Railfest, Lakeland Community College
10 am to 4 pm**
 - April 14, 2026 Membership meeting, Depot 6 pm**
 - April 28, 2026 BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm**
 - April 28, 2026 Paranormal Investigation 9 pm to
Midnight.**
 - May 1, 2026 Open for the summer season**
 - May 23, 2026 Model Train Day, Depot 10 an to 4 pm**
- 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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And the Sale Continues!

As many of you were unable to make our last Saturday sale, we have continued by appointment only.

Call Ed at **216-950-2561** for an appointment.

Many items are new, never used, and some items are only slightly used. Items are from the years 2000 to 2010. MTH Railing and Premiere, Lionel and Lionel Legacy in the box. This also includes many buildings and operating accessories.

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

‘O’ Gauge Train Sale
And the Sale Continues
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

February 26 thru March 8
 Call Ed at **216-650-2561** for an appointment
Painesville Railroad Museum
 475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Some items NEW and some items slightly used!
 Steam and Diesel - Passenger - Freight Cars
 Buildings - Operating Buildings

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org 501c3 Non-profit



250 America - President's Day Celebration

The Return Of Abraham Lincoln

On February 16, 1861 a crowd of thousands anxiously awaited at the Painesville train station for the arrival of then President-Elect Abraham Lincoln. On a platform constructed out of railroad ties, our future president spoke for only a minute. He displayed his brand of self defacing humor while paying tribute to the good looking women in attendance from the Lake Erie Female Seminary. Nearly 165 years later, another crowd gathered at the same location to pay homage to Abraham Lincoln, who many ascribe to be the greatest American who ever lived.

This year's President's Day celebration was held at the Depot on Friday, February 13th. It was a joint effort co-sponsored by the Painesville Railroad Museum and the Lake County Historical Society. Famed reenactors Mr and Mrs John King appeared as Abraham and Mary Lincoln. The crowd in attendance loved the opportunities to take selfies with the President and the First Lady. President Lincoln spoke about his time in the office, particularly about his trouble in finding the right general to lead the Union forces. The audience was able to hear President Lincoln recite the same speech that he delivered in Painesville all those many years ago. Furthermore, those in the audience were given the chance to ask their own questions directly to the President.

The evening was still enhanced by a most excellent presentation on the trains used by Abraham Lincoln. Given by the Lake County Historical Society's Program Coordinator Mandy Spencer, we all learned about Lincoln's Inaugural train, his train to Gettysburg, the Lincoln Funeral train, which on April 28, 1865 passed by our Depot and the legendary Lincoln Ghost train.

Everyone at this packed event (over 55 guests in attendance) appeared to have totally enjoyed the evening's festivities. Some described it as one of the better Museum events in recent history. The Return of Abraham Lincoln was a moment not to have been missed.

In celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12th), free cupcakes were provide by LCHS.

A big thank you to Al Di'Iorio for his donation for the silent auction.







By George Anderson

250 America - Lakeland Community College

Celebrating the 250th Birthday of America was in full swing on Sunday, February 22nd at Lakeland Community College. As a precursor to the Americana Concert put on by the Lakeland Civic Band, many local organizations including the Painesville Railroad Museum and various historic reenactors were there to share their stories in the American journey.

Our Museum's table was manned by locomotive engineer George "Casey Jones" Anderson. The Museum's right flank was well protected by none other than General William Tecumseh Sherman, who shared tales of his marching through Georgia and South Carolina. On our left flank were the Scots under the banner of the Scottish Heritage Association Of Northeast Ohio. Their leader was the PRRM's own Edna Anderson.

Visitors inspecting our table included Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Other organizations among those present were the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution and the Lake County Historical Society. All in all it was quite the patriotic event.



By George Anderson



Railfest Dinner

Join us on March 21st, 2026. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Eat your dinner in a 133 year old Train Station and enjoy the trains as they fly by on the CSX main line.

See the new addition to the museum, such as the new Interactive Display in the Engine Barn.

Guest Speaker: Dan Rager will present his new book "Ohio – Gateway to America". The subject is multifaceted and deals with Ohio's transportation, including Indian Trails, Stage Coaches, Building Canals and Railroads, just to name a few.

This dinner is not just for Railfest vendors, it is open to everyone.

RAILFEST 2026 DINNER

12th Annual Railfest Dinner March 21, 2026

Will be held at Painesville Railroad Museum (aka Painesville Depot)
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077
Eleven miles east of College.
Have Dinner in a Historic Train Station!



Time:
Saturday evening, 5:30 pm, March 21, 2026
Dinner served at 6:00 pm.

Price: \$28.00 per person

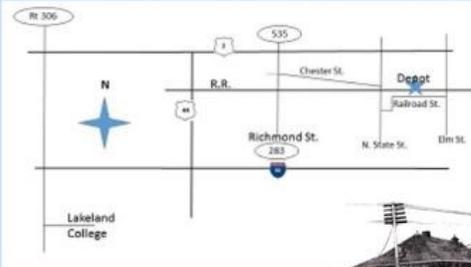
SPEAKER & SUBJECT
Dan Rager - "Ohio - Gateway to America " deals with Ohio's transportation, including Indian Trails, Stage Coaches, Building Canals and Railroads, just to name a few.

RESERVATION DEADLINE
March 15, 2026

DINNER MENU
Tossed Green Salad
Italian and Ranch Dressing on the side
Chicken
Corn Beef and Cabbage
Red Skin Potatoes - Rigatoni

Beverages Stations:
Pots of Coffee - Pots of Decaf Coffee
Soft Drinks, Coffee Condiments: Creamer, Sugar, Sweeteners

Direction to Painesville Depot
Exit College, turn right (North) onto Rt. 306
North on Rt 306 to OH Rt 2 (2 miles)
East on Rt. 2 (8 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.
East on Railroad Street to Depot.



Please retain this part for your information

This Dinner is open to any one that is interested in model railroading or trains in general.

Cut and Return

Cut and Return

Please mail back with Separate Check for the Buffet by March 15, 2026.
(Check will be held & deposited March 23, 2026)
Make Checks payable to: **WRRRA**

Print you name: _____ Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____

Please list and Print all Attending

Mail to: Tom Pescha
3942 E, 364th St.
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____

Return this part

Flyer-DF-2026 Dinner 3-10-25 (#09)



Please return this part only

RAILFEST 2026

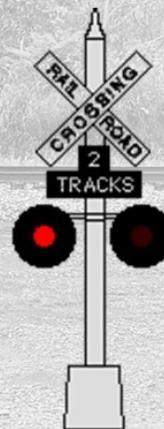
Model Trains - Collectibles - Memorabilia

Saturday & Sunday

March 21 & 22, 2026

10am - 4pm

Held at Lakeland since 1987



7700 Clocktower Drive
Kirtland, OH 44094

State Rt. 306 at Interstate 90 - exit 193

**Free
Parking**

**CASH Admission
ATM Available**

**Admission
\$9.00**

Two Day Pass	\$14.00
Pair (2)	\$14.00
Family (max)	\$16.00
<i>(2 Adults with Children under 18)</i>	

Food Service Available
at reasonable prices



Featuring

- * Dealers *
- * New / Used *
- * Exhibitors *
- * Operating Layouts *
- * Historical Displays *
- * Books / Magazines *
- * Apparel *
- * Collectibles *

For More Information:
www.railfest.org
Email: railfest@mcr5.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/RailfestTrainshow

Railfest
 PO Box 5081
 Mentor, Ohio 44060
 Phone: (216) 598-8842

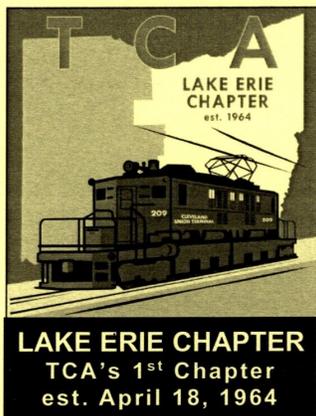



THE NEWS-HERALD
www.News-Herald.com



Presented by
National Model Railroad Association
MCR - Division 5 Event
 Largest continuous running two day train show in OHIO!

Train Collectors Association



Spring Time Train Show

Saturday

March 28, 2026

10am to 3pm

Join us at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
164 Eastland Road (gate 2), Berea, OH 44017

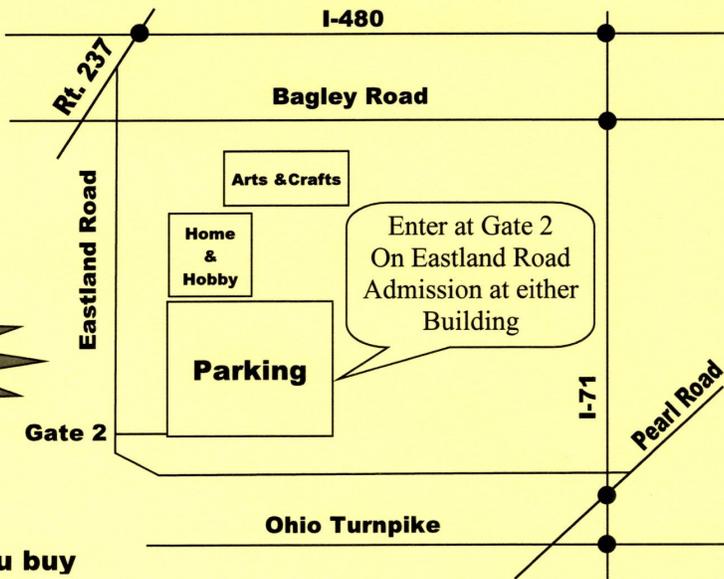
Admission \$6.00 each, Families \$10.00, Kids 17 & Under FREE, with Adult

2 Large Buildings Full of Trains & More Trains
Multiple Operating Layouts, Featuring the Mod Squad
And Much More!

- Plenty of **FREE** Parking
- Handicapped Accessible
- New & Old Trains
- Many Brands & Scales
- Parts, Repair Manuals, Etc.
- Expanded Kid's Play Area



- \$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

Paranormal Investigation

On April 28th, 1865 the Lincoln Funeral Train past by our station on its way to Springfield, Illinois. Legend has it that on the anniversary of that day, you can still hear the ghost train as it passes by our station.

We are doing a Paranormal Investigation on April 28th to see if the legend is true.

Join the ladies of [The Haunted Housewives](#) for a paranormal investigation of the Painesville Railroad Museum (aka The Painesville Depot) on Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 from 9:00 pm to Mid-

night! This historic building, built in 1893, was used as a passenger depot up until 1971. Also check out the trolley from 1865. This haunted building has more than its share of paranormal activity. Would you like to join a small group of investigators searching to discover the evidence to support that claim?

Paranormal Investigation
Of The
Painesville Railroad Depot
April 28, 2026 9pm to Midnight
Presented by the
Haunted Housewives

The Painesville Railroad Museum
Painesville Railroad Depot
475 Railroad Street, Painesville, OH 44077

On April 28, 1865 the Lincoln funeral train passed by our station on its way to Springfield, Illinois. Legend has it that on its anniversary you can still hear the ghost train as it passes by our station.

VISIT THIS HISTORICAL TRAIN DEPOT

Direction to Painesville Depot
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.
East on Railroad Street to Depot.

A \$30 donation will be accepted. All proceeds from this paranormal exploration will go to the Painesville Railroad Museum, the group dedicated to the restoration of the NYC Painesville Depot. Visit <https://www.willoughbyghostwalk.com/special-events.html> for ordering tickets.

www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org
A 501(c)3 Non-Profit



Model Train Day

This years Model Train Day is on May 23rd, 2026 from 10 am to 4 pm.

See operating modular layouts in 'N' Scale (Lens), 'HO' Scale, 'S' gauge (CVSGA layout) , 'O' Gauge (Mod Squad) and 'G' Gauge.

There will also be a model train flea market on grounds. If you wish a spot to sell some of your extra train items, a 10' x 10' spot is only \$15.00. Vendors are responsible for their own table, chairs and tents.

Come to the Show and stay for the day.

Bring your camera and enjoy some time doing Railfanning!

Food and Drinks will be available.

MODEL TRAIN DAY at THE PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

For info call Tom at 216-470-5780

MAY 23, 2026

10 am to 4 pm

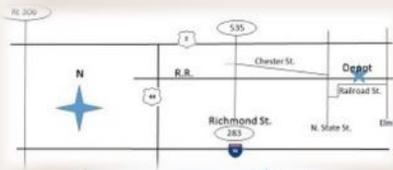
See operating Model Train Layouts in N scale, HO scale, S scale, O gauge and G gauge.

12 Different Layouts to see!

Model Train flea market on grounds.

Admission: \$5.00 adult, \$3.00 child (3 to 12 year old)

\$12.00 Family (max 2 adults, 3 children)



Direction to Painesville Depot

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.

East on Railroad Street to Depot.

Food and Drinks available.

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

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

Admission: \$5.00 adult, \$3.00 child (3 to 12 year old)

\$12.00 Family (max 2 adults, 3 children)

The Painesville Depot, 475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

For more information call Tom at 216-470-5780

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



Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

_____ Regular Membership Annual dues **\$40.00**

Minimum age 18.

_____ Family Membership Annual dues **\$60.00**

Membership is for one (1) year, January to January

If you join in August, September or October dues is \$30.00 for the balance of that year.

If you join after November 1st, your membership dues is \$40.00 and expires January of the following year, (15 months), Family Membership (Husband and Wife) \$60.00

Renewals are **\$40.00 / \$60.00** per year no matter when you renew.

Make Checks Payable to **WRRRA**

Mail to: **475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077**



The Western Reserve Railroad Association

Doing Business as

The Painesville Railroad Museum

A 501(c)3 Non-profit



Revision Date: 9-25-25

Please Check Areas of Interest

Museum Volunteer _____

Typical Opportunities Tour Guide, Receptionist, Gift shop sales.

Museum Collections: _____

Typical Opportunities: acquisitions (additions to collections).

Building & Grounds Maintenance _____

Typical Opportunities: carpentry, painting, basic electrical, plumbing, grass cutting.

Model Train Layouts _____

Typical Opportunities: Operate 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