

## Lorain Port Press

# 2020

*The board and staff of the Lorain Port Authority hope you've had a stellar start to your new year!*

*We are so appreciative of your continued support and look forward to continued progress and new opportunities in 2020. Last year was a pretty productive one for the Port Authority. Join us as we reflect on some of the most memorable moments of 2019.*

## 2019 Highlights

### **First Full Year of the Strategic Plan**

2019 marked the first full year of implementing our Strategic Plan formulated by the [Council of Development Finance Agencies](#) (CDFA). We made great strides toward a number of goals listed in the five-year plan. Accomplishments included establishing the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Program, creating an Energy Special Improvement District (ESID) in Lorain and hosting events to educate area business owners, investors, developers and entrepreneurs on our variety of financing programs and properties, including Opportunity Zones, in the city. We are committed to being the first stop for economic development in Lorain and look forward to



Authored by  
Council of Development Finance Agencies

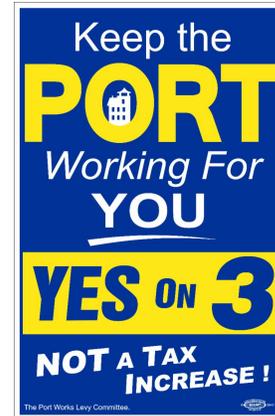


**Strategic Plan  
2018**

continuing that progress in 2020. Keep scrolling to see other accomplishments that also tie into our strategic goals.

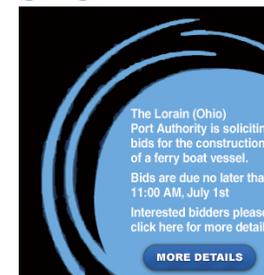
## Levy Renewal

We can't thank the community enough for once again passing our [renewal levy](#) in May 2019. The Port Authority levy for operating expenses appeared on the primary ballot as Issue 3. We are proud to say that it passed with 65 percent of voters in favor of the renewal. We are so grateful for your support and remain committed to our mission of promoting waterborne commerce, providing economic development opportunities within the City of Lorain and enhancing the public's access to Lorain's gorgeous waterways.



## Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line Project

After months of hard work and negotiations, the Port Authority announced earlier this year it was seeking bids for the construction of a ferry boat vessel in coordination with the Kelleys Island Ferry Boat Line and ODOT. The Port is the local public agency facilitating the project because of the federal funds being used to increase transportation in the Great Lakes region. We received a number of quality submissions in July 2019 and hope to see the project come to fruition by 2021. Once built, the vessel will operate in Marblehead.



## Geraldo Rivera at Black River Landing

Cleveland talk show host Geraldo Rivera visited the beautiful Black River Landing in May 2019. The host of "[Geraldo in Cleveland](#)" on [Newsradio WTAM 1100](#) took time to learn about the City of Lorain for a segment he was working on. Geraldo recorded interviews with our Executive Director Tom Brown and Board Chairman Brad Mullins who talked about the waterfront, the history of industry on the river, Rockin' on the River and the Palace.



## Oasis Marinas at Port Lorain

One of the new partnerships the Port

established in 2019 was with Oasis Marinas, the new operators of the former Spitzer Lakeside Marina. Oasis hit the ground running on January 1, 2020, to begin upgrades to the facilities now known as [Oasis Marinas at Port Lorain](#).



The announcement was made August 1, 2019, at Special Board Meeting/press conference at the Lorain Port Authority offices. Slip rentals are now underway for 2020. Click [HERE](#) for more information about amenities and rates. For specific questions, email [portlorain@oasismarinas.com](mailto:portlorain@oasismarinas.com) or call (440) 822-3160.

## Cabela's Masters Walleye Circuit Regional Tournament

A Regional [Cabela's Masters Walleye Circuit](#) (MWC) Tournament is coming back to Black River Landing in 2020! Around March 2019 we began negotiations to bring another fishing tournament to Lorain and Lake Erie. In August 2019, the MWC organizers announced its dates for 2020, including June 12 and 13 in Lorain! We are excited to serve as host and can't wait to show off Lorain to the anglers traveling to the area.



## Caboose #3855

The Lorain Caboose Committee successfully moved Caboose #3855 to Black River Landing in August 2019. The historic locomotive car was moved along the track from W. 14th Street and Broadway to the festival site where it will be used for civic and educational purposes. In order to move the caboose, the group purchased **80 tons** of stone to even the tracks. Black River Landing was once the site of a Baltimore & Ohio Railroad coal yard where millions of tons of coal was loaded onto ships. This caboose even traversed this railyard during the Chessie and CSX Railroads' time. The Caboose Committee is actively planning restoration efforts and received a donation from PPG for all paint needed. For additional information and photos click [HERE](#) or click [HERE](#) to donate.



## Rockin' on the River Contract Extension

The awesome summer concert series known as [Rockin' on the River](#) is locked in at Black River Landing for the next five years! At the September 2019 board meeting, the board of directors passed a resolution officially extending the contract through 2024. We are so grateful for this partnership and are always looking forward to the start of the season on Memorial Day weekend! Season and VIP Passes for 2020 are on sale and available by clicking [HERE](#). Stay tuned for announcements regarding the 2020 schedule.



## Step It Up Challenge Winners

We couldn't be happier that for the third year in a row the Port retained the title as the Step It Up Challenge champions! During the month of "Step-tember," the full-time staff walked as much as possible to rack up the steps. This year, the Port Authority team ended the month with an average of 12,789 steps - our group's highest average yet!

The graphic features a teal header with the 'step it up' logo on the left and the text 'CONGRATS! All Lorain County Worksites' on the right. Below the header, three categories are listed: 'Overall Winner: Lorain Port Authority' with a sub-note 'With an average of 12,789 steps, their best performance yet!'; 'Most Improved: Amherst Exempted Village Schools' with a sub-note 'Improved by 1,1798 steps over four weeks'; and 'Team Spirit: ESC of Lorain County' with a sub-note 'Second year in a row, they rock on social media'. A green ribbon award icon is positioned to the right of the Team Spirit entry.

**step it up** **CONGRATS!**  
All Lorain County Worksites

Overall Winner: **Lorain Port Authority**  
*With an average of 12,789 steps, their best performance yet!*

Most Improved: **Amherst Exempted Village Schools**  
*Improved by 1,1798 steps over four weeks*

Team Spirit: **ESC of Lorain County**  
*Second year in a row, they rock on social media*

## Ohio Council of Port Authorities Vice Chair

In October 2019, our incredibly talented Economic Development Director Tiffany McClelland was elected as the Vice Chair of the [Ohio Council of Port Authorities!](#) We are so proud to have Tiffany representing the Lorain Port Authority and the City of Lorain!



## 2019 OEDA Annual Summit Speakers

Executive Director Tom Brown and Developer Radhika Reddy of Ariel Ventures [served as speakers](#) at the [2019 Ohio Economic Development Association's Annual Summit "Better Together"](#) in October in Dublin, OH. Tom and Radhika explained the public-private partnership and creative financing used to save and invigorate the Historic



Broadway Building now known as Ariel on Broadway.

## Third Place at "Right Up Your Alley" Bowling Fundraiser

Also in October was the [Leadership Lorain County](#) (LLC) bowling fundraiser called "Right Up Your Alley" at Spevok's Bowling Center in Avon Lake. The LPA Team placed third overall and was named MVP of the night! The event benefitted the LLC Summer Intern Program, which allows area college students to gain on-site work experience. The Port Authority serves as one of the many work locations in the county. Each summer the Port has an intern who completes various projects, including those related to marketing, economic development and record retention.



## The Summer Market Partnership

Another exciting partnership the Port established in 2019 was with [The Summer Market](#). The two-day event will be at Black River Landing on July 18 and 19, 2020! A variety of vendors selling everything from jewelry to vintage items to furniture and more will fill the site. Food trucks will also be on site as well as live music for guests to enjoy. Founded in 2006 in Avon Lake by Erin Stack and Kristen Weeden, the market serves as a fundraiser for the pair's non-profit [Girls Give Back](#). All proceeds from the Summer Market go toward the non-profit's annual "Gift of Home" project where local families in need are given a place of serenity, comfort and well-being. Applications for those wishing to be a 2020 vendor at The Summer Market are available by clicking [HERE](#). The deadline to turn in applications is Friday, February 21, 2020.



## 2019 Best Music Venue

In November we learned from The Morning Journal that Black River Landing received the 2019 Readers' Choice Award for Best Music Venue! The festival site also received the award in 2018. Thank you to those who voted our site as the best of the best!



## National Brownfields Training Conference Speaker

Our Economic Development Director Tiffany McClelland traveled to Los Angeles, CA in December 2019 to present at the [National Brownfields Training Conference](#)! Tiffany led a Learning Lounge where she explained the different financing programs the Port has to offer, our current projects utilizing the programs, and how other organizations like ours can implement them in projects they're pursuing. We are very proud of her recent accomplishment!



## Ariel on Broadway Event Center & Rooftop

Offering gorgeous views and a plethora of amenities, the [Ariel on Broadway](#) Event Center & Rooftop/[Hotel by Cobblestone](#) is on the cusp of 100% completion! Although some finishing touches are taking place, the fourth-floor event space was utilized for the Lorain Mayoral Prayer Breakfast and Ceremonial



Swearing-In on January 11, 2020, and a Lorain County Chamber of Commerce networking event on January 14, 2020. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 2, 2020, with the hotel opening March 6. Construction of [Game On Lorain](#), the sports bar located in the basement of the historic building, is complete and the space will open to the public at 5 p.m. Friday, January 31, 2020.

## A blast from the past...



At the beginning of January 2020, the Port Authority staff was glad to receive a visit from former executive director Rick Novak! He took some time to catch up with the staff, hang out in his old office and pet Lil before going back to enjoying his retirement. Thanks for stopping by, Rick! :)

# Past/Upcoming Board of Directors Meetings

## January 2020

The Lorain Port Authority Board of Directors most recently met on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, for a regular board meeting. Topics of discussion included Ohio State Capital Budget Funding requests and the Strategic Plan annual report.

## February 2020

The next LPA Regular Board of Directors Meeting is set to take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at the port offices in Lorain. All meetings are free and open to the public. For prior agendas and meeting minutes, click [HERE](#).



---

319 Black River Lane, Lorain, OH 44052 | 440.204.2269 | [www.lorainportauthority.com](http://www.lorainportauthority.com)

