



take a look at

# EASTERN Lake County



## Center of attention

### If you build it, will they come? If it's a spot for seniors in Perry, yes

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When the Perry Area Recreation Board decided to create a facility in Perry aimed at adults 55 and older, there were questions regarding how much interest such a place would generate.

Less than a year after opening \$1.3 million Perry Center, at 2800 Perry Park Road, officials have received their answer.

"Perry didn't have any type of a senior center or adult recreation program, and so we decided to see what type of interest we had in Perry, being a smaller town," said Director of Adult Recreation Kelly Chaplin. "And we've had tremendous interest in our programs. Most of our trips we do are filled to capacity within a few weeks of offering them. We've added over 400 members in the past 10 months."

The Perry Center, sitting along the shores of Lake Erie, is open five days a week and features a walking track, exercise equipment, ongoing computer classes, line dancing lessons, art classes, card games and recreation programs, as well as

community-based events such as free hearing and vision screenings, flu shots, health-related speakers and more.

Chaplin said one of the most popular Perry Center activities are its field trips to various tourist locations throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond.

"We do a lot, probably one to two a month," Chaplin said. "That's what seniors like to do. They tend to have more time to do a lot of these different types of things that they've wanted to do but couldn't because they were working or raising their families."

Prior trips have included destinations such as dinner shows, Broadway theatrical shows, historical trips, Lake County Captains games, Playhouse Square events and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. Up next for the Perry Center is an overnight jaunt later this month to Lancaster, Pa., to see a few shows and tour Amish country. That outing is sold out; however, a Nov. 28 holiday trip to see the various attractions and Christmas lights at Heartwood Acres located outside of

Pittsburgh still has openings.

Considering the response to the Perry Center has been overwhelming, Chaplin foresees the facility growing over the next few years.

"By never having anything like this before, our seniors in our community had to go elsewhere, other communities, for this type of entertainment, exercise and things like that," Chaplin said. "Now they have it in their own community, and it's really pretty exciting. People are really thankful to have such neat programs they can do close to home."

Annual membership is  
\$8 for residents and  
\$12 for nonresidents.

For more information, call  
(440) 259-3772.

