Lake County Land Bank website launched

By Andrew Cass, *The News-Herald*

Those interested in checking out which properties are available by the Lake County Land Bank can now do so at the agency's recently launched website, lakecountylandbank.org.

While listings of residential and commercial properties as well as renovated homes are available on the site, the agency's executive director, John Rogers, also sees the site as an educational tool for the public.

"We get to go over who we are, what we do and explain our programs," Rogers said.

The Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation, was created in May 2013 and up until this month did not have its own website. It's online presence was available through the Western Reserve Land Conservancy's website.

The site features a list of frequently asked questions, such as "Is the Land Bank a governmental agency?" (No, it's a private not-for-profit community development corporation). Other questions include "what needs to be done to have a building torn down in my neighborhood?" and "does the land bank have guidelines in place regarding the acquisition, renovation, maintenance, demolition or disposition of a property?" (it does).

More detailed answers to those questions can be found here: http://lakecountylandbank.org/frequently-asked-questions.

The website also explains some of the programs the Land Bank is a part of, such as the Moving Ohio Forward Program and the Neighborhood Initiative Program. The site also contains a breakdown of its revenue sources, financial audits and reports and a list of board members among other things.

"We try to be very comprehensive in explaining everything we do," said Rogers, who also serves as Ohio's 60th District State Representative.

Since its inception, the Land Bank has demolished more than 100 residential structures and has shared the costs to demolish Merrick Hutchinson Elementary School in Grand River, the former Holiday Inn in Painesville, the former Dworken and Bernstein Office Building in Painesville and Painesville's public parking garage.

The Land Bank also turned a donated tree-filled lot into a park with a playground at the corner of Sycamore Drive and Pontiac Avenue in Painesville Township last year.

"We're always open to any suggestions," Rogers said of the site. "There's a lot of detail and we took a lot of time before launch."