



Lake County Land Reutilization Corp

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John Rogers, Executive Director of the Lake County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) and Mayor Christopher Conley, Mayor of the Village of Grand River jointly announce that through a collaborative effort, Hach Excavating and Demolition Inc. will begin razing the former Merrick Hutchison Elementary School, located at the eastern end of the Village's square, on Monday, June 23, 2014, at approximately 8:00 a.m. Demolition will include excavation of the foundation, debris removal, a clean back-fill, grading and seeding. The work is expected to take approximately 7 – 10 days. Asbestos removal and its proper disposal, pursuant to EPA and Health Agency guidelines, was recently completed by Safe-Air Contractors.

Merrick Hutchison School, constructed in 1926, was named in memory of Merrick Hutchison, honoring the only Grand River resident to have been killed in the First World War. Merrick was the son of James Hutchison, an early superintendent of the former Painesville Township Schools. The school closed its doors in 1989 due to declining enrollment. Subsequent use included housing programs offered by the Lake County Health Center and again, as an educational facility, initially housing the Western Reserve Montessori School. Bingo was a frequent activity within the building many years ago. The building which has been vacant approximately 10 years was acquired by the Village in January, 2012.

The total cost of this demolition project is \$62,200 and is being funded in large measure by the Land Bank. Intended to assist the Village with its long term commitment to enhancing the quality of life in the Grand River Community, the Land Bank's involvement will enable the Village to allocate future funds for anticipated improvements to the site and park like square. ###

For more information call: John M. Rogers / 440.725.3508 cell or

Ron Balog, Grand River Council President / 440.862.7583 cell