



David Phares

Senior Geographic Information Systems Application Specialist, Lake County GIS Department

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David Phares has been with the Lake County GIS Department since 2000. He brings with him over 25 years of private and public sector experience. His formal education includes a Master's degree in Geography with a specialization in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He has had a very diverse career in GIS which has allowed him to become proficient in many facets of the mapping industry.

Some of the areas in which David has developed expertise include project management, being a liaison to decision makers throughout Lake County regarding GIS initiatives, starting up and providing support for ArcGIS Online projects for various cities throughout Lake County, implementing and conducting training courses for GIS and aerial photography software and providing GIS support at major first-responder incidents.

One major focus of David's GIS experience has been in the areas of incident management, hazmat and disaster response. This includes NIMS training, map production for the Lake County Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and GIS support for FEMA- evaluated Perry Nuclear Power Plant biennial emergency response exercises from 2008 through 2022.

Another strong trait David brings to this position is interaction with outside agencies to solve problems and complete projects. From fire departments, police departments and hazmat teams to health departments, board of elections, local school districts and local township and city officials, he has dealt with a wide range of projects and a wide range of people.

David also serves his community as a Councilman in the City of Willowick - Ward 3. David was elected in November of 2019 and also serves on the Safety Committee (Chairman), Service, Utility and Public Lands Committee, Moral Claims Committee, Volunteer Fire Fighters Dependents Fund Board and Liaison to the City of Willowick Planning Commission.

David has served the Lake County Historical Society as a volunteer since 2013. Some of the projects he has worked on are the Cumings and Downer map series, scanning and documenting over 830 maps, the Heritage Home Story Map project which highlights homes in the Heritage Home program and is featured on the Lake County Historical Society website and scanning and documenting the general map collection in the Archive Map room.