



435 New Fourth Street, Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 10, 2026

## FAIRPORT HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY DEDICATES HISTORY ROOM

On June 20<sup>th</sup> the Fairport Harbor Public Library will host the dedication of its new History Room. The History Room serves as a bridge between the old and the new. The room holds copies of the *Harbor Light*, the Fairport High School Yearbook, local history books, books by local authors, collectable books, commemorative plaques, scrapbooks, and other archival material and artifacts. Researchers can bring their laptop or sign out one of the library laptops to access our digital library of local history resources, including the *Fairport Beacon*, Fairport Harbor yearbooks, and the FHEVSD alumni site that includes a complete digital collection of all class pictures. Last year the library was awarded a federal LSTA Conservation and Preservation Grant from the State Library of Ohio to restore two paintings by local folk artist William Vaino Perry (1882-1967). The dedication will feature the installation of the paintings, a speaker, an art exhibit, and tours of our new facility.

The dedication represents a collaboration between the Finnish Heritage Museum, the Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, and The Fairport Harbor Public Library. Janine LaBounty of the Finnish Heritage Museum will give a presentation on Perry and other prominent Finnish artists from the area, highlighting the town's immigrant experience. Originally from Conneaut, Ohio, LaBounty lives in Painesville Township. A graduate of Kent State University and Ashland University, she taught English and art for 30 years at Harvey High School. LaBounty and her husband Larry are curators at the Finnish Heritage Museum. She is also on the board of the Women's Welsh Clubs of America in Rocky River, Ohio.

Born in Finland, William Perry was noted for his maritime and regional subject matter. After moving to Fairport Harbor in 1925 to work on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Perry became a celebrated member of the local community, painting local landscapes and chronicling life in the town. His works are found in several Ohio museums, including the Columbus Museum of Art. He is also featured in the book *American Folk Art in Ohio Collections* by Robert Doty (Dodd, Mead, c1976).

The two oil on canvas paintings that were restored have been part of the library's holdings for years. "Grand River" is a scene of the Grand River in Painesville near Fairport Harbor. "Suomen Joutsen" is a painting of an historic Finnish ship. According to an article in the *Fairport Beacon*, the Village's local newspaper, the Grand River scene was donated in February 1952 by the artist himself. Over the years he donated several other paintings to the library including "Suomen Joutsen," a still life of flowers in a vase, and "Old Light Tower," a painting of the old Fairport Harbor Lighthouse, that includes an inscription of a Finnish poem.

The dedication will take place on Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be served. Seating for the talk is limited so reservations are suggested. For more information, call the library at 440-354-8191.



*This project was made possible by the  
Institute for Museum and Library Services.*