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March 14, 2022

The Northeast Commissioners Association met for a tour of Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center in Portage and Trumbull counties. The center is an important asset to Northeast Ohio and to our national security.

CCAO has redesigned Counties Current. Click the hyperlinks to jump to each section. If you have feedback, please contact Communications Coordinator Andrew Johnson at ajohnson@ccao.org.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | County News | Did You Know? - Clermont County | Job Postings |

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CORSA awarded AGRiP Recognition for Advisory Standards

The CORSA board of directors and staff are excited to announce their AGRiP Recognition presented during the 2022 Governance Conference last week. The AGRiP Recognition requires pools to undergo a rigorous self-assessment to ensure pool operations meet professional standards and industry best practices. Any pool that meets the Advisory Standards is granted Recognition for three years, helping assure its governing body and members it is operating as effectively as they expect. Approximately a quarter of the 213 AGRiP members have achieved AGRiP Recognition.

"Receiving recognition from the Association of Governmental Risk Insuring Pools (AGRIP) is a true testament to the level of professionalism that the CORSA board of directors and staff adhere to," CORSA Managing Director John Brownlee said. "CORSA is among a small percentage of the AGRIP membership that is able to meet the standards required to receive recognition."

First Row: Ottawa County Commissioner Mark Stahl, Adams County Commissioner Diane Ward and CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler
Second Row: Guernsey County Commissioner Dave Wilson, Wood County Commissioner Craig LaHote, Delaware County Commissioner Gary Merrell, Fayette County Commissioner Dan Dean , Allen County Commissioner Cory Noonan and CORSA Managing Director John Brownlee
Not pictured: Jackson County Commissioner Paul Haller and Knox County Commissioner Teresa Bemiller

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Huron County Commissioner Terry Boose to serve on ODOT advisory committee

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has recently begun an 18-month effort to study potential alternative revenue mechanisms to eventually replace the gas tax, including a potential new mileage-based user fee. The effort will be led by an External Advisory Committee.

CCAO is key stakeholder in this effort and will be represented by Huron County Commissioner Terry Boose. Commissioner Boose was the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee during his service in the General Assembly. The ODOT study is primarily focused on gathering the opinions of Ohioans on the topic of transportation funding, and on running a public education campaign to further inform Ohioans on the need for long-term, sustainable transportation funding, as well as on making high-level recommendations for the creation of new revenue mechanisms.

The Advisory Committee is currently slated to have seven meetings over the next 18 months. Members with questions or suggestions on topic may contact Commissioner Boose, tboose@hccommissioners.com or Senior Policy Analyst Jon Honeck, jhoneck@ccao.org.

Registration opens for the OCCO Legislative Reception

Register now for the Ohio Council of County Officials (OCCO) Legislative Reception on April 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join county elected officials, members of the Ohio General Assembly and statewide office holders to discuss issues affecting counties. April is National County Government Month, and we look forward to celebrating the work of county government together.

OCCO is an organization that unites the associations representing county auditors, commissioners, clerks of courts, coroners, engineers, prosecuting attorneys, recorders, treasurers, sheriffs and judges in order to promote sound, efficient and fiscally responsible government.

Please contact Robin Garrett, CCAO Boards' Liaison and Events Manager, at (614) 220-0653 or rgarrett@ccao.org if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you there!

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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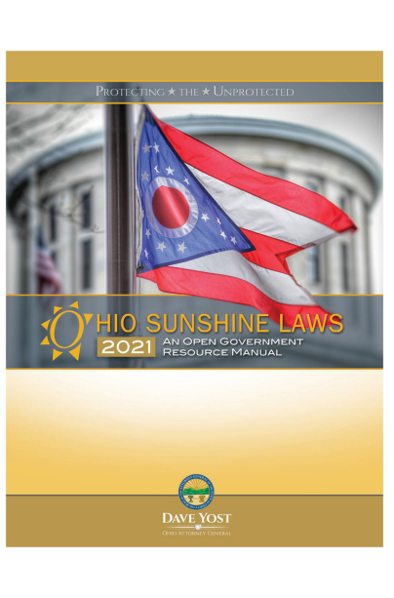
Auditor of State issues bulletin on allocation of opioid settlement proceeds provided directly to local governments

Auditor of State Keith Faber's office on Friday issued a bulletin on the allocation of opioid settlement proceeds that will go to local governments. Ohio reached an $808 million agreement with the three largest distributors of opioids. The state developed the OneOhio plan, a mechanism to ensure that any money from a negotiated settlement is distributed fairly to the communities hit hardest by the opioid crisis. The settlement agreement allocates 30% to local governments (LG Share), 55% to a foundation that will distribute funds to projects, and 15% to the Office of the Ohio Attorney General as Counsel for the State of Ohio. This bulletin will focus on the allocation of settlement proceeds provided directly to local governments in the LG Share. The purpose of this bulletin is to emphasize the separate accountability and accounting guidance for the LG Share of the OneOhio Opioid Settlement Funds (OneOhio Funds).

Click here to read the bulletin.

Celebrate 2022 Sunshine Week - March 13-19


PROTECTING • THE • UNPROTECTED
OHIO SUNSHINE LAWS
2021 AN OPEN GOVERNMENT RESOURCE MANUAL
DAVE YOST

March 13 marked the beginning of Sunshine Week, a national initiative started by the American Society of News Editors — now News Leaders Association — to promote a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. CCAO and its members celebrate this week and the importance of transparent, efficient and effective county government.

Ohio's Public Records and Open Meetings laws, collectively known as the "Sunshine Laws," give Ohioans access to government meetings and records. The Ohio Attorney General's Office helps public officials and citizens understand their rights and responsibilities under these laws.

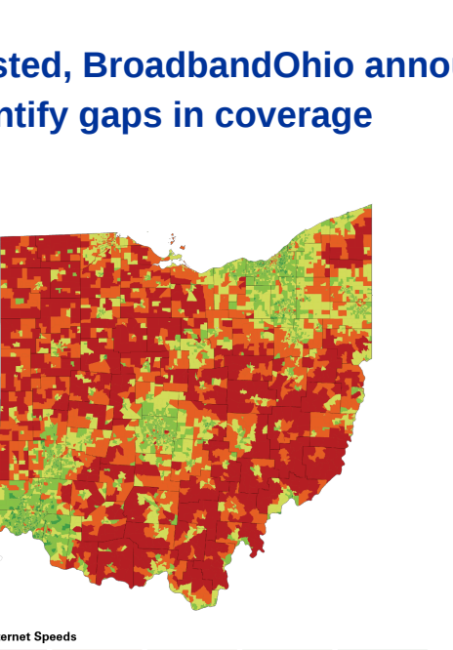
Every year, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost releases a new edition of the Sunshine Laws Manual, a one-stop resource for information on the Ohio Public Records and Open Meetings Acts.

The manual, commonly known as the "Yellow Book," reflects the past year's law changes and legal decisions affecting Ohio's open government laws. The attorney general's Public Records Unit annually updates the manual to help citizens understand their rights and to help public servants understand their obligations under the laws.

In addition to its Yellow Book, the Public Records Unit partners with the Ohio Auditor of State's Office throughout the year to offer free Sunshine Laws trainings at dozens of locations across the state. Public officials or their designees are required to complete training on Ohio's Public Records Act at least once per elected term. A full-length version of the training is available online as well.

The unit also created a model public records policy for local governments to use as a guide when creating their own policies. These resources and more are available on the attorney general's website at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Sunshine.

Husted, BroadbandOhio announce new mapping resource to identify gaps in coverage



Ohio Lt. Gov. Jon Husted announced that BroadbandOhio has published a new mapping resource tool on their website that more accurately shows how many of the state's households are connected to high-speed internet, providing a clearer, more detailed picture of Ohio's broadband availability gaps. A statewide map along with profiles on each of the 88 counties can be found at Broadband.Ohio.Gov.

The maps use on-the-ground Ookla Speedtest Intelligence® records from a 15-month period to measure four different internet speeds: under 10 Mbps; under 25 Mbps; under 50 Mbps; and 50-100 plus Mbps. Whereas the FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Data from FCC 477 maps only uses data that is reported through internet service providers, this new map uses real-world, on-the-ground speed test information from actual internet customers to determine where there are gaps in coverage. The new maps will be used as a supplement to other currently available data, helping to provide more information to BroadbandOhio; Ohio citizens; local, state and federal officials; internet service providers; and other stakeholders.

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OBM releases February financial report; revenues strong

On March 10, the Office of Budget and Management released its February Monthly Financial Report. The report, which only focuses on state-level revenues and expenditures, showed a continuation of the strong fiscal performance that state has enjoyed recently.

At the state level, non-auto sales and use tax collections totaled $717.4 million, $11.1 million above the department's estimate. The non-auto sales and use tax thus far has come in $285.9 million above estimates in state fiscal year 2023. The auto sales tax collections for February was 123.8 million, or $9.1 million above the estimate; the source is $22.0 million above estimate in the state fiscal year. Since the state and counties share a tax base, these trends carry for county sales tax revenues, although the actual performance will vary from county to county.

Among the notable February expenditures that OBM reported that involved counties were:

- One-time subsidy payments to county boards of developmental disabilities for supports for youth with complex behavioral needs;
- A decrease in payments to county boards of developmental disabilities for special education enhancements due to lower usage;
- A lower-than-expected disbursement for indigent defense reimbursement, but OBM notes this is due to a timing issue and that is not indicative of an actual decrease in reimbursement spending.

Register today for the 2022 NACo Annual Conference

Join county elected and appointed officials from across the country in Adams County, Colo. for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Annual Conference & Exposition on July 21-24.

The Annual Conference is the premier national opportunity for counties to exchange cutting-edge practices, elect the association's leadership and shape NACo's federal policy agenda for the year ahead.

Click here to register and to get more information.

2022 NACo Achievement Awards applications now open

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2022 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 52 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 "best of category" winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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DeWine announces $650 million in additional grants to support child care

Gov. Mike DeWine announced an additional $650 million in grants to help child care programs defray unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and to help stabilize operations. This is in addition to the $150 million in child care grants announced in December.

DeWine made the announcement during a visit to the Columbus Early Learning Center (CELC) in Columbus at the Champion Avenue location.
The grants cover the following areas:

- Operating/New Pandemic Costs: These funds are intended to provide assistance with costs incurred after the declaration of the federal public health emergency. Funds from this subgrant can be used for conducting facility maintenance and renovations, including those that address COVID-19 concerns such as purchasing sanitizer, classroom dividers, cleaning supplies, temporary sinks, and thermometers; improvements that make child care programs inclusive and accessible for children and families with disabilities; and paying personnel costs including wages or benefits such as health, dental, vision, paid sick leave or family leave, and retirement contributions.
- Workforce Recruitment/Retention: These funds are for personnel costs such as wages, benefits, retirement contributions, sign-on and retention bonuses, ongoing premium or hazard pay; background checks; training and coaching; and creating substitute pools.
- Access Development: These subgrants provide funds for expanding the number of current classrooms or reopening classrooms closed due to the pandemic to serve additional children or serve new age groups including care for infants, toddlers, children with special needs and care during non -traditional hours; increasing new equipment for learning and development, addressing learning gaps and social/emotional needs of school-age children; and supporting the inclusion of the therapeutic child care pilot.
- Mental Health Workforce and Family Support: These funds are to support costs related to the mental health and well-being of their children and employees. This includes funds for coaching, training, local team building, resiliency, stress reduction, and developing staff in mental health and social-emotional development topics; organizing stress reduction and wellness experiences for children; addressing staffing patterns and schedules to support staff mental health; providing childhood mental health supports; and funding for program costs associated with participation in the Mental Health Bridge Pilot.

These grants are available for ODJFS-regulated child care centers, family child care (FCC) type A and type B homes, in-home aides (IHA), and approved day camps, as well as Ohio Department of Education (ODE) licensed preschool (PS) and school-age (SA) programs that are approved to provide publicly funded child care (PFCC). ODJFS-regulated child care programs do not need to be participating in PFCC to be eligible to apply for these sub-grants; however, ODE programs must be approved to provide PFCC at the time of application. Ten percent of the funds will be used to develop efforts in support of services for child care programs and the children receiving care.

Guidance and requirements are available on OCCRRA's website, at www.occrra.org.

Details Announced for Ohio Summit on Ukrainian Refugees – March 17

Gov. Mike DeWine announced details regarding the Ohio Summit on Ukrainian Refugees. The summit will bring together multiple organizations who could play a role in the relocation of Ukrainian families at a summit in Northeast Ohio. These will include resettlement agencies, faith-based organizations, charities, and others interested in supporting Ukrainians. The summit is intended to help the organizations better understand their possible role in refugee resettlement, and to assess what Ukrainians' needs may be.

The summit is intended for invitees. Members of the public may view the summit on http://OhioChannel.org.

WHAT:
Ohio Summit on Ukrainian Refugees
WHERE:
St. Vladimir Grand Hall
3425 Marioncliff Dr.
Parma, OH 44134
WHEN:
Thursday, March 17, 2022
2 p.m.

ODJFS Office of Workforce Development shares information on workforce development grant opportunities

ODJFS Office of Workforce Development shared information on grant opportunities now available through ODJFS that can be applied for through your local workforce development board. OWD recently launched a new webpage that includes application information as well as a list of approved special projects to-date. It can be viewed online at the following link: Special Projects and Initiatives | Office of Workforce Development | Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

NGMA to host 2022 Annual Grants Training – April 19-21

The National Grants Management Association will host the 2022 Annual Grants Training at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA.

Mark your calendar today to enjoy three plenary panels, two keynote speakers, over 30 breakout sessions, networking with your peers, and visiting with our exhibitors and federal foyer. Click here to register.

OITA to host 2022 Cybersecurity Summit

Ohio Innovation Technology Association (OITA) will present the 2022 Cybersecurity Summit on March 31 at 9 a.m. at the Athletic Club of Columbus. Attendees will be able to join the discussion with State of Ohio leaders on cybersecurity challenges and goals.

Guests include Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Attorney General Dave Yost and Auditor of State Keith Faber.

Register here. Click here for the complete agenda.

ODOD Brownfield Remediation Program update

The ODOD Brownfield Remediation Program has released a list of 61 counties that still have funds remaining from their original $1 million set aside. The list is available here. These "Round 2" funds will be awarded on a first-come, first served basis until June 30, 2022. After June 30, 2022, any remaining funds in the county set-aside will be added to general fund and made available for grants throughout the state on a first-come, first-served basis. Any local government entity within the county, including a Community Improvement Corporation (CIC), may apply. Applications are open now and may be accessed through the program website.

2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference - April 27 through April 29

LAND BANK
'22
OHIO LAND BANK ASSOCIATION
11th Annual Conference | April 27–29

Ohio Land Banks Association and Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity announced that the 2022 Ohio Land Bank Association Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio at the Huntington Convention Center.

Pre-conference activities, including mobile tours, begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27 with the official conference kick-off taking place on Thursday, April 28 and concluding on Friday, April 29, 2022.

Please visit the Ohio Land Bank Association website at www.ohiolandbanks.org for conference details.

You can register today using this link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/11th-annual-ohio-land-bank-conference-2022-tickets-238342808757

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Norman at snorman@cuyahogalandbank.org

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COUNTY NEWS

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The State of Ohio is warning that they are cracking down on welfare fraud
hometownstations.com, March 8, 2022
The State of Ohio is cracking down on Welfare Fraud and Allen County is doing their part.

The state legislature has earmarked 2 and a half-million dollars to stop public assistance fraud. In response, Allen County Job and Family Services has started an Early Detection Program to catch any errors in applications. They will be looking for information about income and the number of household members that don't add up. If an individual is found to file fraudulent information, there are consequences.

Surges in sales tax collections may be cooling off
CantonRep.com, Feb. 28, 2022
Sales tax revenue based on holiday sales may indicate that the surge in consumer spending in Stark County for much of the past year is slowing down.

Chris Nichols, the county's budget director, released preliminary figures Monday that indicated sales tax revenue from non-auto December sales rose 13.9%.

It's a lower percentage than the 15.4% increase in sales tax receipts based on November non-auto sales. Sales tax revenue based on November sales rose to $3.03 million from $2.63 million the year before. The figures confirmed preliminary numbers released in late January.

Nichols gave his monthly financial update to the Stark County commissioners. He gets early numbers from the Ohio Department of Taxation each month.

Sandusky County accepted into Ohio START program
Fremont News Messenger, March 11, 2022
Sandusky County is one of four counties to be accepted into the Ohio Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma (START) program, as the county looks to better assist children and families dealing with parental substance use, addiction and child mistreatment issues.

Melanie Allen, director of Sandusky County Job and Family Services, said the program is led by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO).
She said Sandusky County will have a case manager specifically dedicated to START cases, with the county collaborating with local mental health agencies to help families with reunification and working through substance use and addiction issues.

Scioto County awarded Best Site Development Project
Portsmouth Daily Times, March 11, 2022
Scioto County Commissioners announced at their meeting Thursday Scioto County was recognized by JobsOhio/OhioSE for Best Site Development Project in the OhioSE region of 25 counties Wednesday.

"Ohio Southeast is the regional component of Jobs Ohio, and they cover all of Southeast Ohio," said Commissioner Bryan Davis. "They work with the separate economic entities within those counties and this year, Scioto County is being recognized as the site development winner for the Norfolk and Southern property, which is a joint win for Lawrence and Scioto County."
Scioto and Lawrence counties shared the Haverhill Sewer Project, a $3.57 Million investment project to bring sewer infrastructure to the entire Haverhill/N&S site/industrial corridor.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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MARCH 17, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 18, 2022
CCAO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 6, 2022
OCCO LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW?

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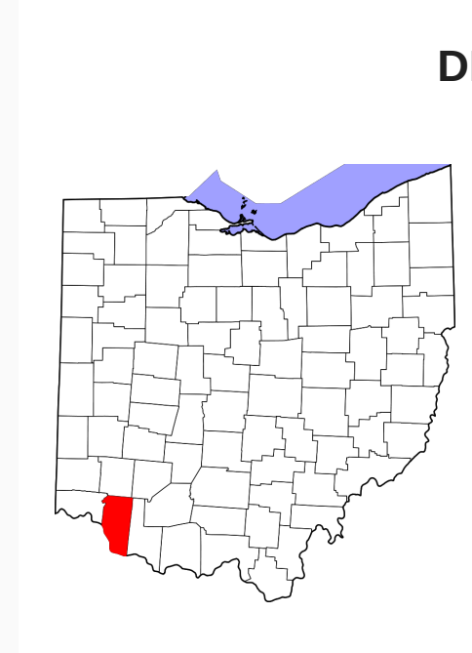

In 1890, the cabin where Ulysses Grant was born was removed and taken on tour. It was shown at the Chicago World's Fair and the Ohio State Fairgrounds before returning to Clermont County.

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