May 2, 2022

Commissioners Julie Ehemann (Shelby County), Sue Smail (Wayne County), Kathyrn Whittington (Ashtabula County), and Melanie Flax Wilt (Clark County) mentored cohorts at the Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute about running and serving in elected office.

CCAO has redesigned Counties Current. Click the hyperlinks to jump to each section. If you have feedback, please contact Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@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.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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DeWine-Husted Administration announces plan for historic investment in Appalachia

On April 28, the DeWine-Husted Administration unveiled plans for comprehensive investments in Ohio's Appalachian region.

The proposal, dubbed "Ohio BUILDS - Small Communities, Big Impact - A Plan for Appalachia," would focus on restoring downtowns, improving community health, and revitalizing local workforces.

Ohio BUILDS
Small Communities, Big Impact
A Plan for Appalachia
Proposed $500 Million Investment in Ohio's 32 Appalachian Counties
Mike DeWine Governor of Ohio
Jon Husted Lt. Governor of Ohio

The $500 million proposal, which will require legislative authorization, will consist of $50 million for planning and developing regional partnerships and $450 million in implementation grants.

If authorized, the proposal will more than double the investment in Appalachia done thus far under the DeWine-Husted Administration, bringing the total to $972 million.

The Appalachian region of Ohio consists of 32 counties, spanning from Ashtabula County in the northeast to Clermont County in the southwest.

Deadline for Brownfield Remediation Program applications extended to May 31

On April 28, the Department of Development announced that the application deadline for Round 2 of the Brownfield Remediation Program **has been extended to May 31**.

This extra time will help counties which have not yet met their $1 million county set-aside. Feedback from Association members provided the Department with an understanding of why this extension was necessary.

The list of counties with remaining funds that are eligible for the extension can be found here. The CCAO encourages these counties to make every effort to complete an application and take advantage of this funding to help revitalize their communities.

Counties can learn more about the program and submit applications here.

Forty-seven county staff members complete NACo Leadership Academy

April saw the end of one of NACo's Leadership Academy terms. The Academy, a 12-week online program, is intended to empower front-line county government employees with leadership skills.

Forty-seven staff members from Ohio counties were among the more than 4,600 April graduates of the program. Ohio staff members from came from seven counties: Belmont, Defiance, Delaware, Fairfield, Hamilton, Trumbull, and Warren.

These 47 county employees work in a variety of roles within their county. Among the positions represented were policy managers, facilities projects managers, sanitary engineers, HR officers, behavioral health specialists, and office managers, among others.

NACo members wishing to learn more about the program and register staff members can follow this link.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES NACo | PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY
WE MAKE LEADERS BETTER

Spring 2022 County Leader magazine released

The Spring 2022 issue of CCAO's quarterly magazine is now available! Click here read about, among other topics, advocacy for county jail funding in the capital budget, a model workforce program in Fairfield County, and how to mitigate cyber and driving risks.

If you have feedback or ideas for future articles, please reach out to Policy Analyst and Editor Rachel Massoud Reedy at rreedy@ccao.org or Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

CCAO seeks Communications Coordinator

The County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) is seeking to fill the position of Communications Coordinator.

Specifically, the position is responsible for the coordination of external and internal communication efforts that support the strategic direction of CCAO and its entities. The position will plan, write, design and layout communication pieces and social media; produce short videos and podcasts; maintain CCAO and its entities websites; develop and implement media outreach and educational strategies; monitor media outlets for mentions of CCAO and its entities; take and edit photographs at events.

The full job posting can be accessed here.

County government educational brochure customization still available

If counties wish to customize the educational brochure they received for National County Government Month, please reach out to Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org. He will gladly work with counties to insert different images and add information to the back panel.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Ohio Supreme Court considers limits of public official liability in financial fraud case

A recent Ohio Supreme Court case considered under what circumstances a public official could be held liable for the misuse of public funds. In the case, *State ex rel. Yost v. Burns*, the appellee was a director of a charter school that had received state and federal funds. The school's auditor, who had the authority to disburse funds from the school's accounts, pleaded guilty to the embezzlement of more than $50,000. There was no evidence of the director's involvement in or knowledge of the criminal scheme.

The Ohio Attorney General filed a complaint against the director, along with the auditor and two other defendants, contending that they were jointly and severally liable under RC 9.39, which states, "All public officials are liable for all public money received or collected by them or by their subordinates under color of office."

In reviewing the case, the court noted that the director did not receive or collect the money, which was never under his control. Moreover, the auditor was not his subordinate and operated independently of the director. Therefore, the court held in a 4–3 opinion that a public official cannot be held strictly liable for the misappropriation of public money when neither the official nor any of the official's subordinates collects or receives, and therefore does not control, the funds.

JobsOhio's American Rescue Plan Guidebook is available

JobsOhio's revised ARPA Guidebook is available for download at the following address: https://www.jobsohio.com/american-rescue-plan-guidebook/

The Guidebook is a resource for local leaders looking to maximize the impact of ARP funds and become better informed about ARP funds and potential investments. The Guidebook is a result of conversations with local, regional, and state leaders to learn their plans for ARP funds, share best practices, and support leaders in maximizing the potential economic impact of ARP funds.

Ohio leaders identified three priority investment areas that are broadly aligned to Treasury Recovery Fund objectives:

- Build a more resilient workforce by investing in talent hard-hit by the pandemic (e.g., support for training for high-demand skills for individuals in qualified populations and those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic)
- Upgrade critical infrastructure to revitalize communities and support Ohio's economy (e.g., expanding digital infrastructure coverage)
- Support the small businesses and industries most negatively impacted by the pandemic (e.g., scale access to grants/loans for SMBs)

NACo provides updates on ARPA funding

NACo refreshed a major update of its analysis of Treasury's Final Rule for the ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund. The updated analysis includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Clarifying information on eligible/ineligible uses from Treasury, including capital expenditures
- Deeper dive on the provisions around revenue loss allocations
- Treatment of loans
- Reporting requirements and background information on federal Uniform Guidance/2 CFR Part 200

To see a concise summary of the final rule for the Recovery Fund, please see the Overview Document.

NACo members with questions should contact Eryn Hurley, director of Government Affairs, at ehurley@naco.org.

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.

Division of State Fire Marshall to hold public hearing regarding fireworks

The Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal is conducting a public hearing on May 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Division of State Fire Marshal, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

The public hearing will concern proposed amendments to OAC 1301:7-7-56, Explosives and Fireworks. The proposed rule can be found here.

Persons may provide oral and/or written comments or testimony regarding the proposed rule changes either in person at the hearing or submitted via mail, facsimile, or email. Those wishing to submit written comments can send submit them to the following:

Division of State Fire Marshal
Attn. Code Enforcement Bureau
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
614.728.5460 / 888.276.0303
Fax: 614-728-5168
OhioFireCode@com.state.oh.us

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Stay competitive with OEDA/Bricker Ohio Economic Development Tools webinar

OEDA's Economic Development Tools Webinar Series, in partnership with Bricker & Eckler, will keep you up to date on the latest requirements and best practices in these programs. Ohio has some of the most effective programs that support economic and community development. But these programs are constantly changing and being refined to keep Ohio communities competitive. The upcoming session concerning ARPA may be beneficial.

ARPA's Best Practices
May 9, 2022
9:30 – 11 a.m.
Ohio communities have benefited from millions of dollars in Federal ARPA dollars, designed to support recovery from the COVID recession as well as make structural investments that enhance the sustainability of communities. This Webinar, presented by OEDA and Bricker & Eckler, will update attendees on the latest ARPA requirements, provide some best practice ideas from JobsOhio and others, and present several case studies of how Ohio communities have utilized their ARPA funding.

Registration opens for Greater Ohio Policy Center's 2022 summit

The Greater Ohio Policy Center is hosting their biannual policy summit "Reflect & Refocus: Furthering Resilient Communities" on June 9 in Columbus. The Summit will showcase interventions for creating sustainable communities, like zoning reform, active infrastructure investments, and increasing housing options.

Attendees may earn up to 5 hours of education credits from The Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Continuing Education and the American Planning Association Ohio Chapter.

This year's Keynote Address is Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik. Early bird pricing ends May 6 and regular registration closes at the end of May. You can register here.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to host webinar about brownfield funding opportunities

On May 10 at 2:00 p.m. the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will host a webinar concerning brownfield revitalization. Speakers will include representatives from the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization, the U.S. EPA, and the Ohio Department of Development. This educational opportunity may help guide counties with determining projects for their brownfield remediation funds awarded under H.B. 110 of the 133rd General Assembly. To register for the webinar, click here.

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will host a webinar about workplace recycling

Are you pursuing or considering pursuing a workplace recycling program? On May 4 at 1:00 p.m. the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will host a webinar about reducing waste in the workplace and establishing a recycling program. The webinar is designed for businesses, schools and nonprofits but counties will likely be able to learn best practices as well. Registration is free and can be completed here.

The district will host a similar, but shorter, webinar on May 18 at 12:00 p.m. Registration can be completed here.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

Counties and other local governments are required to submit their ARPA financial reports to the US Treasury no later than April 30. With this date fast approaching, the following resources are available to help CCAO members to navigate reporting requirements:

US TREASURY WEBINAR ON REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
National Association of Counties and US Treasury
Webinar recorded April 21, 2022
Join NACo for a review of the Treasury Department's webinar on reporting guidelines and compliance requirements for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program. NACo staff will be available to answer questions on the upcoming deadline for the Project and Expenditure Report, which is due April 30. To view the slides and recording of the webinar, click here.

ARPA FISCAL RECOVERY FUND: OVERVIEW OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND UNIFORM GUIDANCE
National Association of Counties and Government Finance Officers Association
Webinar recorded April 14, 2022
With the upcoming Project and Expenditure Report deadline fast approaching on April 30, join NACo and Government Finance Officers Association for an overview of what you need to know when it comes to reporting for the American Rescue Plan Act' (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. During this session, participants will hear about key requirements as they related to the U.S. Department of Treasury's guidance and the federal Uniform Guidance. To view the slides and recording of the webinar, click here.

OVERVIEW OF PROCUREMENT OF CAPITAL PROJECTS USING ARPA FUNDS
CCAO and Bricker and Eckler, Attorneys at Law
Webinar recorded April 13, 2022
This webinar discusses procurement rules applicable to a county's use of its funding from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act. Counties ultimately need to comply with both state and federal law, and Bricker and Eckler attorneys will review the rules and procedures required under both sets of law, including where the processes are similar and where they diverge. To view a recording of the webinar, click here.

COUNTY NEWS

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After surprisingly good 2021, Miami County hopes for events boost this summer
Dayton Daily News, April 25, 2022
Miami County's Visitors and Convention Bureau, seeing a financial turnaround following the travel slowdowns of COVID-19, hopes to get even more positive news with return of events such as Troy's Strawberry Festival.

The bureau in 2021 had a "really good year, considering what we were still dealing with," Executive Director Leiann Stewart told the county commissioners during a recent update report.

The bureau ended last year with a profit of $183,135, a turnaround from 2020 when a negative balance of $75,450 was attributed to shutdowns and COVID-19.

Noble County officials excited about industrial park's potential
WTOV9, April 26, 2022
Ohio Southeast Economic Development and JobsOhio came together Tuesday to announce an investment of just under $5 million for an industrial park. It's a project that's been a long time coming for Noble County.

"The project is six pads, and an initial 10,000 square foot, speculative development building and will be developed for $4.8 million," Noble County Commissioner Brad Peoples said.

"It's a testament to the local leadership here in the county," JobsOhio President/CEO JP Nauseff said. "They rallied all the resources they had. They were creative and brought an outstanding developer. This was a great team effort."

New sheriff's union deals cost up to $1.1M over three years
Journal-News, April 28, 2022
The Butler County sheriff has come to terms with four unions, cementing new three-year contracts that could cost up to $1.17 million in new money depending on retirements and other factors.

The new agreements are between the county and 196 members of the Wage and Benefit Committee representing corrections officers and their supervisors, dispatchers and clerical specialists. Depending how many people retire or take the new sick leave buyout program additional costs for wages ranges from $990,000 to $1.17 million.

Negotiating union contracts used to be painful and contentious but Major Mike Craft said the last several have been a breeze, "we were able to strike a fair, happy medium for everybody, everybody concedes, nobody gets everything they want."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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MAY 3, 2022
MAY PRIMARY ELECTION

MAY 19, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

DID YOU KNOW?

Monroe County

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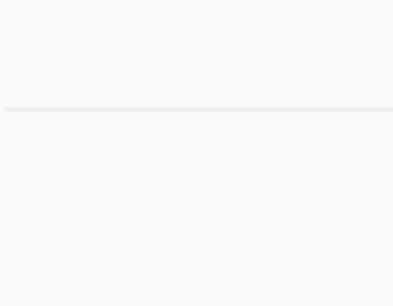

Lewis Wetzel, a frontiersman who lived in modern-day Monroe County, was known by some area Native Americans as "Death Wind" for his ability to reload a single-shot flintlock rifle while sprinting.

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