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May 9, 2022

The Brown County Courthouse lit in red, white, and blue and aglow with fireworks in honor of Commanding General of the Union Army and 18th President of the United States Ulysses S. Grant's 200th birthday.

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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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.

Save the Date! CCAO Workforce, Families and Children Symposium

CCAO
WORKFORCE, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM
AUGUST 25-26, 2022
SAVE THE DATE

CCAO will hold a Workforce, Families and Children Symposium on August 25-26 at the Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark. Counties are encouraged to attend to learn more about important issues that every county faces.

Session topics will include workforce panels with business and county leaders, an examination of the children services landscape with an eye on rising placement costs, and early intervention services, among others.

Registration will open in June and cost $50 per person (this does not include reservations at the hotel).

The event will coincide with the CCAO Board of Directors August meeting which attendees are welcome to attend.

Office of Budget and Management announces 2022 budget roundtable events

The Office of Budget and Management announced the locations of its four regional roundtable events that provide updates on the state budget and funding/grant opportunities.

- June 1 (Wednesday): Cuyahoga Falls
- June 8 (Wednesday): Lebanon
- June 16 (Thursday): Bowling Green
- June 22 (Wednesday): New Boston

Registration for the events is free and opens on May 11. You can register here when the window opens.

Fairfield County named one of the Top Workplaces in central Ohio

Columbus CEO released its 2022 edition of magazine's annual Top Workplaces in central Ohio. The rankings are based on surveys of employees conducted by a Philadelphia-based research firm.

Fairfield County was named the 12th best workplace in the "large workplaces" category. The only other government entity to place was Olentangy Local School District, at 16th in the "large workplaces" category.

Congratulations Fairfield County!

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.

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 holds federal, statewide, and local contest primaries

The primary elections for U.S. Senate and House races, for statewide executive and judicial races, and for local races were held on May 3. The results are unofficial and may change as provisional and absentee ballots are receive and certified. Statewide, turnout was 20.6% with individual counties ranging from 14.0% to 32.3%.

A number of county commissioner and council primaries were held. There were also several county tax issues voted on as well. The results of these votes can be found here.

Statewide matchups in November are listed below, with incumbents listed first. If the race does not feature an incumbent, candidates are ordered alphabetically by surname.

- Governor and Lt. Governor: Republicans Mike DeWine and Jon Husted versus Democrats Nan Whaley and Cheryl Stephens
- Attorney General: Republican Dave Yost versus Democrat Jeffrey A. Crossman
- Auditor of State: Republican Keith Faber versus Democrat Taylor Sappington
- Secretary of State: Republican Frank LaRose versus Democrat Chelsea Clark
- Treasurer of State: Republican Robert Sprague versus Scott Schertzer
- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: Democrat Jennifer Brunner versus Republican Sharon L. Kennedy
- Justice of the Supreme Court (term starting January 1, 2023): Republican Pat Fischer versus Democrat Terri Jamison
- Justice of the Supreme Court (term starting January 2, 2023): Republican Pat DeWine versus Democrat Marilyn Zayas
- U.S. Senator: Democrat Tim Ryan versus Republican JD Vance

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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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.

Governor announces availability of first responder recruitment and retention grants; Webinar available

On May 5, the Emergency Management Agency began accepting applications for the Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program.

A total of $70 million in grants is available, earmarked from $250 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding that the state dedicated to first responders.

Among permissible uses of grants are wellness programs addressing unique mental, physical, and emotional health issues that first responders face; recruitment and retention efforts; onboarding and training costs; and programs to engage young adults about careers as first responders.

Grant applications will be accepted until June 17 at 5 p.m. A webinar regarding the grant program will be held May 13 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Registration for the webinar can be found here and more information about the program and the application can be found here and here.

Registration open 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. Registration closes at the end of May. You can register 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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Electronic filing delays: Stark commissioners want software vendor quotes
Canton Repository, May 2, 2022
After eight years of numerous delays, two county commissioners strongly suggested Monday that the Stark County Clerk of Courts' Office begin contacting software vendors to find out how much it would cost to fully complete the court system's electronic filing system.

The office of Stark County Clerk of Courts Lynn Miller Todaro has continued to pursue developing a new case management system with county IT employees and three outside IT contractors.

In a work session meeting with commissioners, Todero's chief deputy, Jennifer Fitzsimmons estimated that the new system would be ready within about 18 months.

Hubbard turns to commissioners for EMS help
The Vindicator, May 5, 2022
Hubbard Mayor Ben Kyle asked Trumbull County commissioners to work with Mahoning County commissioners to address the growing issue of insufficient emergency medical services in parts of both counties.

Kyle told Trumbull's board on Wednesday that Lane LifeTrans has announced it no longer will provide ambulance service for Hubbard, Hubbard Township, Coitsville, Struthers and Campbell starting June 4.

"Mahoning County commissioners were approached last week about trying to find solutions to this ongoing problem," Kyle said.

Cuyahoga County announces new 'Connection Center' to help aging residents, adults with disabilities
Cleveland.com, May 4, 2022
Cuyahoga County's Division of Senior and Adult Services announced its new "Connection Center" resource to help aging residents access resources to preserve their independence.

As its name suggests, the Connection Center, which was formerly referred to as the Centralized Intake Line, is a free service that connects residents ages 60 and older or adults with disabilities up to age 59 with trained social workers who can help them with adult protection, in-home skilled and personal care, transportation, meals, benefits assistance, programming or other services. It's also a place where residents can report suspected elder abuse or neglect.

The center can be reached at 216-420-6700 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, for general assistance, and 24/7 for reports of elder abuse.

Lorain County Commissioners contract firm to move forward on radios for 9-1-1 system
The Morning Journal, May 4, 2022
Law enforcement in the county took center stage at the May 4 Lorain County Commissioners' meeting.

The commissioners honored county law enforcement officers and corrections officers with proclamations and also provided funding for $124,000 in programs that benefit law enforcement. They also approved $600,000 from a federal grant to fund a county-wide reaction team that responds to emergencies on the water and other extreme conditions.

Commissioner Matt Lundy noted the importance of law enforcement in the community. He said the job is tough, challenging and dangerous.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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MAY 19, 2022
GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 31, 2022
DEADLINE FOR BROWNFIELD REMEDIATION PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

JUNE 3, 2022
NE OHIO DISTRICT DAY IN ASHTABULA COUNTY

JUNE 27, 2022
NW OHIO DISTRICT DAY

COUNTIES CURRENT TRIVIA

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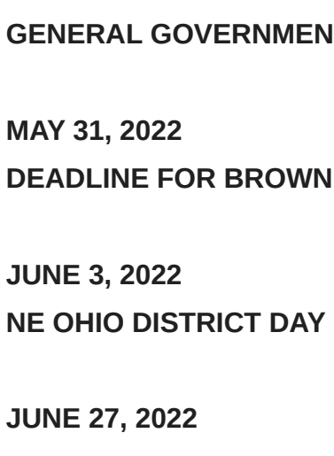
Montgomery County



The 2022 gubernatorial election pits Greene County's Mike DeWine against Montgomery County's Nan Whaley. Governor DeWine is the only politician from Greene County to serve as governor. If Mayor Whaley wins the governor's office in November, she will be the third governor from Montgomery County. Name one of the other two.

Think you know it? Email the answer to Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org with the subject line "Counties Current Trivia." The first correct respondent will be highlighted in next week's Counties Current.

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