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June 13, 2022

Happy birthday to Ashtabula County, Cuyahoga County, and Portage County! The three northeastern counties turned 215 on June 7. Established in 1807, the counties were created out of land formerly within Geauga and Trumbull counties.

CCAO has redesigned Counties Current. Click the hyperlinks to jump to each section. If you have feedback, please contact Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at ncioIli@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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Summit County Council fills two vacancies; Rittenhouse named acting Clark County Commissioner

On June 7, the Summit County Democratic Party appointed two new members of the county council, filling vacancies. Christine Higham, the director of HR and administration for Mustard Seed Market & Cafe, is the new representative of District 6. The district, comprised primarily of Tallmadge, was formerly represented by Jerry Feeman until he passed away on May 8.

Erin Dickinson was appointed to serve as an at-large representative after a vacancy was created when her father Clair Dickinson retired at the end of May.

Higham will serve the rest of the unexpired term until the District 6 seat is up for election in 2024. Dickinson will serve the rest of the unexpired term until it ends at the end of the year. She is one of the Democratic candidates for the three at-large seats up for election this year.

In Clark County, businesswoman Sasha Rittenhouse was appointed as acting commissioner on June 1, filling the vacancy left by former commissioner Rick Lohnes' retirement in May.

Rittenhouse will serve in the acting commissioner role until the Clark County Republican Party Central Committee appoints an interim commissioner to serve the rest of the unexpired term.

Rittenhouse won the Republican primary for the seat and does not have a Democratic opponent in the November general election.

Hancock County Sheriff's Office receives recertification for adopting standards

On July 10, the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services announced that the Hancock County Sheriff's Office completed the recertification process for the Ohio Collaborative standards.

Law enforcement agencies get certified by meeting standards regarding the use of force (including deadly force) and agency recruitment and hiring. The standards were developed as part an effort to strengthen community-police relations.

Evaluation of agencies is done collaboratively between the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. Seventy of Ohio's 88 sheriff's departments have received certification.

You can read more about the Collaborative here.

Gallia County and Scioto County sheriffs' departments receive Violent Crime Reduction Grants

On June 6, Governor Mike DeWine announced the recipients of the third round of Violent Crime Reduction Grants, aimed at assisting local law enforcement agencies combat violent crime in their jurisdictions. Among the recipients were the Gallia County Sheriff's Department ($109,567) and the Scioto County Sheriff's Department ($285,424).

The grant program, funded through the state operating budget and state-level ARPA funds, will award a total of $58 million.

Through three rounds, the state has awarded $9.6 million in grant awards. More than $2.8 million has gone to county sheriff's departments. The following sheriff's departments received grants in the prior two rounds:

- Cuyahoga ($163,000)
- Franklin ($337,851)
- Summit ($421,241)
- Defiance ($82,219)
- Medina ($1,469,209)

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 16 (Thursday): Bowling Green
- June 22 (Wednesday): New Boston

Registration for the events is free and can be completed 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. Commissioners, county executives, and county council members 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.

Dickinson Wright provides summary of Ohio Ethics Commission opinion regarding developer donations

On June 7, the law firm Dickinson Wright provided clients with a new bulletin regarding the recent Ohio Ethics Commission's Advisory Opinion concerning the ability of a solar developer to make voluntary donations to local governments where they do business.

CCAO received permission from Dickinson Wright to share the bulletin with our members. The bulletin, drafted by Terrence O'Donnell, Christine M.T. Pirik, and Matthew C. McDonnell can be accessed here.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Public Comment Opportunity on Ohio Revised Code Chapter 340

OhioMHAS invites members of the public to share their insights on R.C. Chapter 340 (Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services) at a Teams meeting on Wednesday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. This meeting is not a 340 Review Stakeholder Workgroup meeting, but rather an opportunity for individuals who are not Workgroup members to share their perspectives on this chapter.

If you are not a Workgroup member and wish to share your insights verbally at this public comment opportunity, please RSVP by submitting the following information to 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov no later than Friday, June 17, at 5:00 pm:

1. Your name, address, phone number, and email address.
2. If you represent a particular government entity or organization, the name of that entity or organization.
3. If known when RSVPing, the sections of R.C. Chapter 340 you plan to provide comments on.

It is the Department's intention to provide five minutes for each individual sharing comments. Depending on the number of RSVPs received, this time limit may be extended or reduced. OhioMHAS also invites members of the public to submit written comments at any time regarding R.C. Chapter 340 at 340ReviewWorkgroup@mha.ohio.gov.

You will be able to join the Teams meeting here (Audio only: 614.721.2872, ID: 68060408#).

OhioMHAS 988 Stakeholder Update Webinar Recording, Community Toolkit, Other Resources Available

OhioMHAS provided a stakeholder update on Ohio's 988 planning and implementation process last week. Beginning on July 16, 9-8-8 will replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, allowing for an easy-to-remember number.

You can watch a recording here and view the slides here. The department also shared a Community Toolkit to help with 988 messaging and communication planning; those resources are listed below.

- Ohio 988 Fact Sheet
- Ohio 988 FAQ
- When to Call 911/When to Call 988
- Local Partner Toolkit (SAMHSA)
- 988 Key Messages (SAMHSA)
- Ohio's 988 Lifeline Providers Map

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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First responder recruitment and retention grant application deadline is Friday

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.

More information about the program and the application can be found here and here.

CCAO Service Corp to host financial technology utilization webinar

The CCAO Service Corp is hosting a webinar designed for our commissioners, administrators, county auditors and county treasurers to introduce "three+one" - a program for liquidity analysis and data management. The webinar **Tips & Best Practices for Cash/Liquidity Management** will be on June 22 at 10:00 AM. During the 30-minute presentation, three+one's Relationship Specialist, Team Lead, Alex DeRosa, will cover how new technologies can help you streamline various functions of your county's cash management using innovative financial technology.

In 2019, the National Association of Counties, FSC endorsed three+one as a national best practice. Three+one provides a number of benefits to counties, but ultimately provides an independent, third-party analysis and new data insights that helps counties execute borrowing, investing and banking services & structures with ease and impact.

During this 30-minute presentation, three+one's Relationship Specialist, Team Lead, Alex DeRosa, will cover how new technologies can help your county streamline various financial management functions through the use of innovative financial technology.

You can read more about the webinar here and register here.

Ohio EPA to host upcoming stormwater permitting webinar

The Ohio EPA will be hosting a webinar next week that counties may wish to attend.

The webinar will be held on June 21 at 10:00 a.m. and pertains to stormwater permitting requirements of industrial activity. The Ohio EPA industrial stormwater general permit recently changed, and this webinar will provide an important overview of the changes. This webinar will also count towards Continuing Education Units for a number of categories. You can register for the webinar here.

Additionally, on July 26 at 11:00 a.m. the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation will host a webinar about Ohio EPA regulations and how businesses can ensure they remain in compliance. Continuing education and BWC discount program credits will be available for this webinar as well. You can register for the webinar here.

Nonpoint source water quality grant application opens

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is accepting water quality project grant applications through July 6.

The projects will address nonpoint source-related water quality issues, such as nutrients, habitat, hydromodification, and sediment. Among past projects following similar criteria are drainage water management, saturated buffers, wetland treatment systems and two-stage ditches, stream restoration, and acid mine drainage abatement.

Counties can learn more about the grant program here.

Applicants are encouraged to direct questions to John Mathews (john.mathews@epa.ohio.gov) or Rick Wilson (rick.wilson@epa.ohio.gov) at the Ohio EPA.

U.S. Department of Transportation opens Safe Streets and Roads for All application portal

The U.S. Department of Transportation has opened the application window for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. The program will provide grants to governments for projects and strategies aimed at preventing roadway deaths and injuries.

More information regarding the program can be found here.

Additionally, the Department will hold three webinars in June to help potential applications learn about the program and how to best prepare an application. These webinars will be held on June 13, June 15, and June 23.

The last day to submit applications is September 15, 2022.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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This section of Counties Current will be a permanent fixture for the foreseeable future to help counties with the ins and outs of the American Rescue Plan Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. These two laws provide a once-in-a-generation investment.

NACo provides guidance and overview of available BIL funding

NACo hosts a resource page providing information to counties about the Bipartican Infrastructure Law. The page is rich with information including multiple tables providing overviews and links to funding opportunities, a timeline of upcoming grant programs, and much more.

The website can be found here. CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the site and apply for funding through the myriad of programs to bring valuable federal funds to Ohio communities.

NACo provides overview of U.S. Treasury's allocation of second ARPA Recovery Funds tranche

On May 26, NACo provided statewide associations an update that the U.S. Treasury has begun the process of allocating funds from the second tranche of the ARPA Recovery Fund.

Key highlights to the second tranche payment process include:

1. All counties must have an active SAM.gov registration in order to receive their second tranche of funding
2. Effective **April 4, 2022,** the federal government switched service providers and stopped using the DUNS number and began using the Unique Entity ID (UEI) – **All counties are required to switch from a DUNS number to a UEI**
3. If a county's SAM.gov registration expired (12-month coverage) before it is due to receive its second tranche payment (and after April 4, 2022) the county is required to re-active its SAM.gov registration, which will require them to adopt a UEI (instead of a DUNS number) **PRIOR TO** receiving their second tranche

Process for Counties to Receive Second Tranche ARPA Recovery Fund Payment

- Section 603 of ARPA provides payments to eligible local governments in two tranches, with the second tranche payment being made no earlier than 12 months after the first payment
- Consistent with this requirement, Treasury expects to provide second tranche payments to local governments **approximately 12 months after their first payment**
- In the coming weeks, Treasury will open the submission portal in a phased approach, **allowing counties to access the portal for 30 days prior to their second tranche payment date**
- Counties will receive a notification from Treasury by email letting them know that they can enter the portal – **it is very important to make sure that the assigned point of contact is still available to receive future communications**
  - The **point of contact is the individual designated in the portal during the first tranche submission** who will receive email notifications on submission status, including any issues found during the verification and communication regarding payments
  - The **individual entering the portal for the second tranche submission will be the same individual with the registered** ID.me who submitted for the first tranche allocation
  - If that individual is no longer with the county and you need to designate a new individual, email COVIDReliefITSupport@treasury.gov with the subject line "Entity Name – Update to Designated Individuals" and include the role that needs to be updated along with the full name, title, email and phone number of the new person designated
- After the email is received by the county, the point of contact will be able to update their entity information to include banking information in the portal
- In preparation for the second tranche payment, counties should ensure their SAM.gov entity registration is still active – **all counties are required to have a SAM.gov registration to receive their second tranche payment**
  - Note that on **April 4, 2022,** the federal government changed service providers and stopped using the DUNS Number and began using the Unique Entity ID (UEI) in SAM.gov to identify entities
  - All counties, even those already registered in SAM.gov, must validate their entity information through the new service provider
  - Counties may need to provide additional supporting documentation through the new system
  - The General Services Administration (GSA) released FAQs to support counties through this new process
  - **Counties are required to renew their SAM.gov registration every 12-months. If a county's SAM.gov registration expired (12-month coverage) before it is due to receive its second tranche (and after April 4, 2022) the county is required to re-active their SAM.gov registration, which will require them to adopt a UEI (instead of a DUNS number) PRIOR TO receiving their second tranche**

If you have any questions, please contact Eryn Hurley, Director of Government Affairs for NACo, at ehurley@naco.org.

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)

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.

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.

COUNTY NEWS

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Marion Commissioners approve restrictions to solar, wind projects in Pleasant Township
Marion Star, June 8, 2022
The Marion County Board of Commissioners voted to approve a resolution to restrict the development of large-scale solar and wind facilities in Pleasant Township.

The commissioners voted 3-0 on Tuesday during a public hearing to pass the resolution. According to the resolution, which Pleasant Township Trustees approved on Dec. 29, 2021, "no solar or wind farms considered 'major utility facility' are to be constructed in Pleasant Township."

During Tuesday's hearing, when President Andy Appelfeller asked for feedback from anyone who was opposed to the resolution, no one responded. Appelfeller then asked for a show of hands from those who supported the resolution and almost all of the 31 people in attendance indicated their support for it.

County Approves $1.25 Million Towards Coke Plant Clean-up Project
Scioto County Daily News, May 3, 2022
"If we don't pull this trigger today, it's not going to happen anytime in the future," Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis said the county needs to act fast if it wants money to clean up the site of the old coke plant.

Scioto County Commissioners held a special Monday meeting to address the future of the old New Boston Coke Plant Site. Commissioners Bryan Davis and Scottie Powell voted to authorize Economic Development Director Robert Horton to apply for a 'brownfield' grant to help fund a cleanup of the site. Brownfield grants are used to clean up polluted former industrial sites making them suitable for reuse.

This grant would require the county to put up $1.25 million dollars of its own money toward the project.

Richmond honored by county commission
Ironton Tribune, June 6, 2022
The Lawrence County Commission took time at their meeting on Thursday to pay tribute to the man who served as this year's honorary grand marshal for the Lawrence County Memorial Day parade.

"We are honored to recognize Lloyd Richmond at our Memorial Day Parade," commission president DeAnna Holliday said.

Richmond, 102, a World War II veteran, lives in Barboursville, West Virginia, but was a longtime resident of Coal Grove and former teacher and librarian in Lawrence County Schools.

Cuyahoga County approves $34 million for broadband, lead, jobs program and more: Stimulus Watch
Cleveland.com, June 8, 2022
Cuyahoga County Council gave final approval to spending roughly $34 million in COVID-19 stimulus money on broadband, workforce development, lead remediation, COVID-19 response and stabilizing Irishtown Bend.

The expenses, approved during a Tuesday meeting, are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, which is the $1.9 trillion COVID-19 federal stimulus package.

The largest of the $31 million is for a $19.4 million plan to provide affordable broadband internet for 25,000 homes through Minnesota-based nonprofit PCs for People. The group promises to provide upload and download connection speed of 100 mbps for $15 per month, according to the group's proposal.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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JUNE 16, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: BOWLING GREEN

JUNE 17, 2022
CCAO JULY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

JUNE 22, 2022
OBM DOLLARS AND SENSE: NEW BOSTON

JUNE 27, 2022
NW OHIO DISTRICT DAY

DID YOU KNOW?

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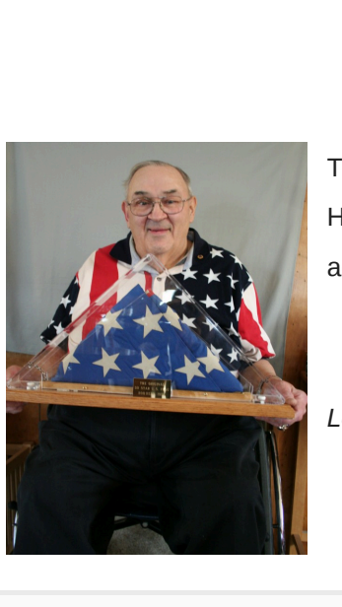
Fairfield County



The current 50-star U.S. flag was designed by Lancaster High School student Robert G. Heft for a school project. The B- he received was boosted to an A when his design was adopted nationally in 1960. He later served as mayor of Napoleon, Ohio.

Left: Robert Heft with the original 50-star flag.

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