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COUNTIES CURRENT
CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

July 11, 2022

Wayne County Commissioners Sue Smail and Becky Foster honored Judy Wortham Wood with a proclamation during her retirement celebration from the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes Counties where she has served as executive director since 2008.

Photo courtesy of Wayne County. Read more about Wood here.

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Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

Statehouse Report | Print Version | Dates to Remember

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Fourth round of Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program awarded

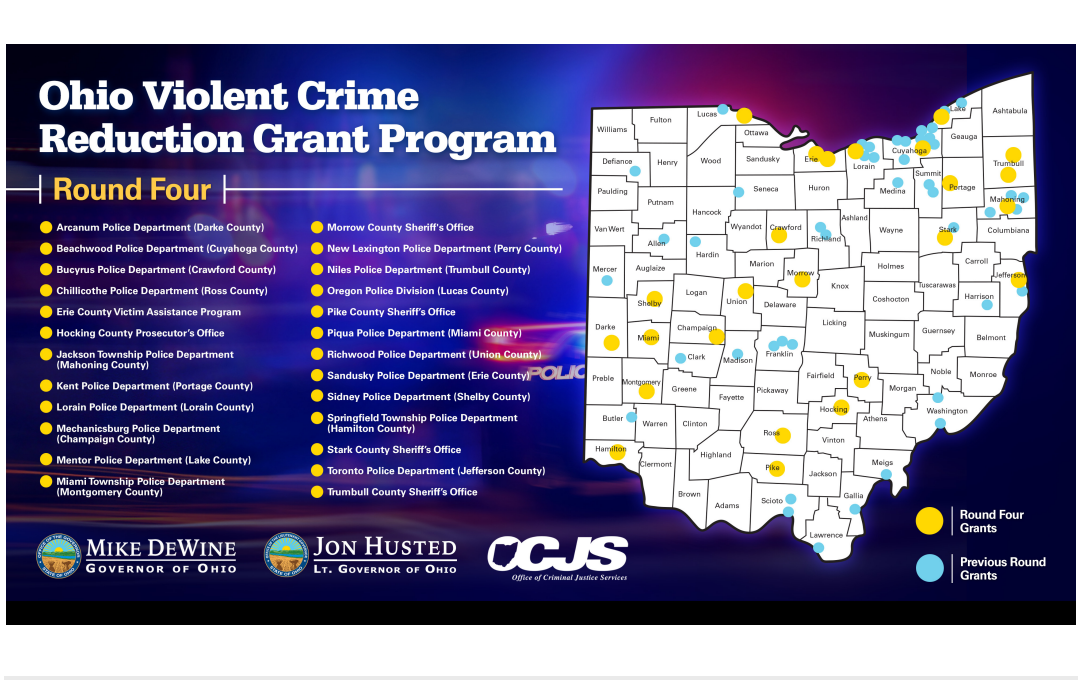
On July 8, Governor Mike DeWine announced the recipients of the fourth round of awards through the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program. The program, funded through state-level ARPA dollars, is intended to give local law enforcement additional tools to address violence, including addressing staffing concerns.

The fourth round distributed $9.9 million to 25 agencies across the state, including six county entities:

- Erie County Victim Assistance Program ($466,038)
- Hocking County Prosecutor's Office ($414,031)
- Morrow County Sheriff's Office ($587,141)
- Pike County Sheriff's Office ($232,380)
- Stark County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with other Stark County law enforcement agencies ($2,045,146)
- Trumbull County Sheriff's Office ($366,800)

Last week's awards bring the total distributed to local governments across the four rounds to $19.5 million out of the $58 million allocated for the program. Thus far, about $6.9 million has gone to county entities.

Below: A map showing the locations of the grant awardees through four rounds. Click to enlarge.


Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program
Round Four
Arcanum Police Department (Darke County)
Beachwood Police Department (Cuyahoga County)
Bucyrus Police Department (Crawford County)
Chillicothe Police Department (Ross County)
Erie County Victim Assistance Program
Hocking County Prosecutor's Office
Jackson Township Police Department (Mahoning County)
Kent Police Department (Portage County)
Lorain Police Department (Lorain County)
Mechanicsburg Police Department (Champaign County)
Mentor Police Department (Lake County)
Miami Township Police Department (Montgomery County)
Morrow County Sheriff's Office
New Lexington Police Department (Perry County)
Niles Police Department (Trumbull County)
Oregon Police Division (Lucas County)
Pike County Sheriff's Office
Piqua Police Department (Miami County)
Richwood Police Department (Union County)
Sandusky Police Department (Erie County)
Sidney Police Department (Shelby County)
Springfield Township Police Department (Hamilton County)
Stark County Sheriff's Office
Toronto Police Department (Jefferson County)
Trumbull County Sheriff's Office
Round Four Grants
Previous Round Grants
MIKE DEWINE GOVERNOR OF OHIO
JON HUSTED LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO
OCJS Office of Criminal Justice Services

Traffic enforcement cameras reports must be submitted by July 31

As a reminder, any county that operated or contracted with another party to operate traffic enforcement cameras during the previous fiscal year must file a report with the Department of Taxation by **July 31, 2022**. Failure to do so may result in a county forfeiting its funding from the Local Government Fund. This is governed by ORC Section 5747.502.

A blank version of the report can be found here.

Please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation, Revenue Accounting Division at RevenueAccounting@tax.state.oh.us or call (614) 466-7150 with any questions regarding how to file the report.

Happy birthday Adams County and Trumbull County!

Two counties celebrated their birthday yesterday on July 10, Adams County and Trumbull County. Both pre-statehood counties, Adams County was established in 1797 (225 years) and Trumbull County was established in 1800 (222 years).

Adams County was created out of land formerly part of Hamilton County and is named after John Adams, a Founding Father and the President of the United States when the county was established.

Trumbull County was created out of land formerly part of Jefferson County and Lawrence County. It is named after Jonathan Trumbull, a former Governor of Connecticut, in a nod to the area's past as part of the Connecticut Western Reserve.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

Statewide eWarrant System Launched

Earlier this week, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced the official launch of Ohio's new eWarrants system, a statewide criminal justice database that will improve the accuracy of state and federal background checks and streamline the process to file warrants and protection orders in Ohio. The new system is a result of the Governor's Warrant Task Force, which discovered that an untold number of Ohio arrest warrants and protection orders were slow to be - or were never - entered into LEADS and NCIC due to the fragmented, inefficient, and technologically obsolete warrant entry practices in use by many courts and law enforcement agencies in Ohio.

The Meigs County Common Pleas Court, which was the first agency to bring the eWarrant system online, has reduced its bench warrant filing time to as little as 12 minutes, as opposed to the previous days-long process that involved the hand-to-hand transfer of paperwork between agencies and duplicative data entry into multiple case management systems. Use and installation of the interface is available at no charge to all law enforcement agencies and courts in the state and can be integrated to work with record management vendor systems that agencies already have in place. Use of eWarrants is not mandated, but the benefits to public safety and officer safety make this new interface an incredibly valuable tool.

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988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Launches July 16

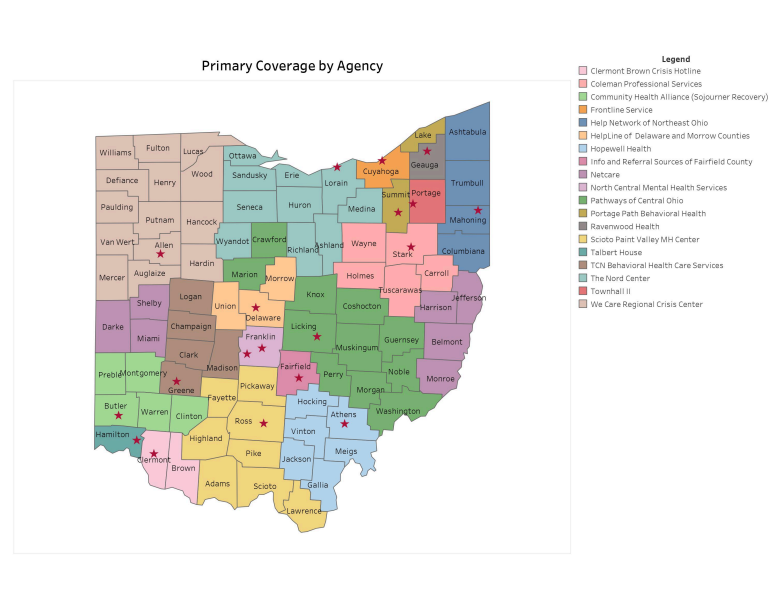
The 988 National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline launches nationally and in Ohio on July 16, 2022. From that day forward, Ohioans can call 988 for any behavioral health crisis. While national and statewide 988 public awareness campaigns will not begin until 2023, as local public-serving organizations and community agencies consider opportunities to educate their residents about the 988 service, key messages can include:

- Remember – there is hope and help. If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health or addiction related crisis that is non-life-threatening (thoughts of suicide, emotional distress, or substance use/addiction), call, chat or text 988 for free, 24/7, confidential support. If you or someone you know is in immediate, life-threatening danger, call 911.
- Call, text or chat 988 for a mental health, addiction, or suicide crisis. For police, fire, or emergency rescue, call 911.

OhioMHAS and SAMHSA have made several resources available to help communities and stakeholders share information about 988. More information can be found at:

- Ohio Resources - https://mha.ohio.gov/988
- National SAMHSA Toolkit - https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988/partner-toolkit
- When to Call 988 vs When to Call 911 - https://mha.ohio.gov/static/AboutUs/Priorities/988vs911.pdf
- SAMHSA just released new 988 printable wallet cards, magnets, posters, and safety plan forms on the Partner Toolkit. SAMHSA provides organizations the ability to order limited supplies from the SAMHSA Store. If you need larger orders than SAMHSA can send, you can use the printer-ready files to make your own. For those who need just a few copies of an item, you can print those using the simple PDF download.

Below: Ohio's 988 Lifeline Providers Map (click to enlarge)



EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

New details on JFS caseworker recruitment and retention grants released

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services recently released details to Public Children Services Association directors about the $15 million grant program to help public children services agencies recruit and retain frontline caseworkers and supervisors.

The program will be administered through the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO), which will host a webinar (date TBA) to provide an overview regarding the application process. A copy of the application will be provided in conjunction with the webinar.

The letter from ODJFS to children services directors, available here, outlines 11 permissible usages of the funds. Additionally, it states that agencies must participate in at least one of three statewide workforce initiatives as a condition to receive funding: exit surveys for children services staff upon leaving employment, utilizing AVEnueS Virtual Reality headsets as a pre-hire activity, or utilizing caseworker and supervisor onboarding curriculum developed by the Office of Families and Children. More details about these three initiatives are available in the letter.

ODJFS also released a table providing the allocation under the program available to each of the 85 public children services agencies in the state. The allocation was calculated using the same methodology as the State Children Protective Allocation.

Any questions concerning the program and the webinar/application should be directed to either workforce@pcsao.org or ODJFS Program Administrator Vince Ciola at vincent.ciola@jfs.ohio.gov.

Applications due for US EPA Brownfields Job Training Program

Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants allow nonprofits, local governments, and other organizations to recruit, train, and place unemployed and under-employed residents of areas affected by the presence of brownfield sites. Through the JT Program, graduates develop the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, including sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety. These green jobs reduce environmental contamination and build more sustainable futures for communities. Applications are due August 2, 2022.

For more information, visit the US EPA website.

Court backlog reduction grants application window open

The Office of Criminal Justice Services, a division of the Department of Public Safety, is accepting applications for the Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program. The program is intended to help courts reduce the time-to-disposition of cases, remove barriers to timely case resolutions, and devise creative solutions to improve case flow.

A total of $10 million is available to municipal or county courts; common pleas, domestic relations, general, juvenile, or probate courts; and appellate courts. Projects can be backdated to April 1, 2022.

The application deadline is July 29. More information about the program can be found here.

Two upcoming Ohio EPA-related webinars

On July 19, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar regarding risk management and how it relates to water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants, particularly those that use cholorine in excess of 2,500 pounds in a process.

Continuing education units for water and wastewater operator certification and environmental health specialists can be earned through the webinar.

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.

Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program available through US Department of Transportation

The US Department of Transportation has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity through a competitive Railroad Crossing Elimination Program. $573 million is available in FY 2022 with more than $3 billion available over five years.

The program is intended to help counties, groups of counties, or multijurisdictional groups of local governments with projects intended to relocate tracks, improve protective devices, and other projects related to railroad crossings.

More information can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and NACo's overview of the program.

AARP continues Deciding Voices Listening Tour

AARP Ohio has kicked off a five-event tour of the state to listen to voters 50 years or older on the issues that matter most to them. These include prescription drug costs, Medicare, healthcare access, Social Security, and long-term care.

The remaining events will take place at the following locations. Registration is free but limited to 50 participants per event. You can register by clicking the event listing.

- Cleveland (July 13)
- Portsmouth (July 21)
- Columbus (July 26)
- Lima (August 4)

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

Back to Top

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.

First Bridge Investment Program deadline approaching

The US DOT Bridge Investment Program is open for applications. Counties are eligible to apply for BIP funding directly through USDOT, as well as to bundle bridge projects into one application. Twenty million is reserved for the planning application category outlined below. In total, the NOFO is soliciting applications for three different funding categories:

- **Planning**: For projects requiring technical assistance to become eligible for BIP capital construction funds | **Applications due July 25, 2022**
- **Large bridge projects**: For projects with eligible costs over $100 million | **Applications due August 9, 2022**
- **Bridge projects**: For projects with eligible costs less than $100 million | **Applications due September 8, 2022**

More information is available on the NACo website.

Treasury releases updated ARPA reporting guidance; NACo provides overview

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently released updated reporting guidance for Project and Expenditure Reports and a template for the Recovery Plan Performance Report. Both have been released ahead of the next reporting deadline, July 31. **This reporting deadline only applies to counties with a population over 250,000 or that have received a total distribution of more than $10 million.**

NACo provided a summary of key updates to the reporting guidelines. These requirements will impact all counties regardless of population size and award amount.

- **Additional programmatic data for capital expenditures:** When using Recovery Funds for capital expenditures projects, counties need to report the type of expenditure based on a list of enumerated uses. Examples of enumerated uses are COVID-19 vaccination sites, job and workforce training centers, and public health data systems. A full list of enumerated uses is available on pages 27 to 28 of the updated guidance.
- **Written justification for capital expenditures:** Counties are required to provide a written justification for capital projects of any category that cost at least $10 million and for projects in the "other" (i.e., project not explicitly enumerated by Treasury) category that cost at least $1 million. Previously, counties needed to create a written justification for these projects but were not required to submit them as part of regular reporting.
- **Description of labor requirements for capital expenditures:** Counties are required to provide additional labor reporting. For projects that cost at least $10 million, counties will need to report on the strength of the project's labor standards, including information on the presence of a project labor agreement, community benefits agreement, prevailing wage requirement, or local hiring. This new required information is outlined under Infrastructure Project on pages 30-31 of the updated guidance.
- **Project information for broadband projects:** The updated guidance requires counties to provide detailed project information for broadband infrastructure investments. Counties need to report what kind of technology is involved in the project (i.e., fiber optic cables, coaxial cables, etc.), the total miles of fiber deployed over the project, and the total number of funded locations served broken out by both speed of connection and type of location (i.e., residential, business, or community). This new required information is outlined under Broadband Projects on pages 32-33 of the updated guidance.
- **Moving of Recovery Plan Performance Report data into P&E Report:** Under the updated guidance, some of the data that was previously only required for the Recovery Plan Performance Report (Recovery Plan) is now required for large counties (populations above 250,000 and/or above $10 million in awards) on their quarterly P&E Report. For example, large counties investing in housing security programs must now report the number of households receiving eviction prevention services. A full list of changes to programmatic data requirements for large counties is available on page 33 of the compliance and reporting guidance.
- **Updated template for Recovery Plan:** The updated guidance also provides a template for the Recovery Plan due for large counties on July 31, 2022, reflecting the expenditure categories and other changes made by the Final Rule.

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

Guidance and overview of available BIL funding available from NACo and the Ohio Department of Transportation

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

The NACo website can be found here and the ODOT website can be found here.

CCAO strongly encourages counties to frequently visit the sites 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. The next deadline is July 31 (for large counties only). 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. 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
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's (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.

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

Back to Top

Holmes County looks to reduce speed limit to 45 mph on three roads
The Daily Record, July 7, 2022

New pavement has led to more speeding on some Holmes County roads.

It's an unexpected problem that could be rectified by reducing the speed limits in certain areas.

County commissioners on Thursday approved a resolution asking the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to lower the limit from 55 mph to a safer 45 mph on County Roads 407, 200 and 189.

The reduced speed was recommended in a recent safety study.

Kudos to Lorain County Commissioner Matt Lundy for getting job assurances on Avon Lake power plant demo | Editorial
The Morning Journal, July 2, 2022
Lorain County Commissioner Matt Lundy deserves a great deal of credit for meeting with an official June 28 from the company that's redeveloping the former power plant in Avon Lake and getting assurance that it will honor its original commitment to use local labor on the site.

Charah Solutions Inc. purchased the former NRG Energy Facility with plans to redevelop the lakefront property.

By the way, the city of Avon Lake received $300,000 from a state grant to help with the clean-up of the plant.

In talks with Avon Lake city officials, the company had promised it would use 75 percent Ohio labor on the project as well as conduct public meetings to provide updates on the project.

Hancock County saves for rainy day
The Courier, July 8, 2022
The Hancock County commissioners this week boosted the county's rainy day fund for emergencies by $1 million, bringing it to $2.2 million.

The funds were transferred from the general fund. Even after the transfer, the general fund balance exceeds $14 million, Commissioner William Bateson said.

Between good fiscal management and increasing sales tax revenue, county finances have been strengthening for years.

Sales tax revenue rose by 20% from 2016 to 2021. It also has increased about 6% year-to-date from the same time a year ago.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Back to Top

AUGUST 2, 2022
OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRIMARY ELECTION

AUGUST 12, 2022
CORSA BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 15, 2022
CENTRAL DISTRICT MEETING, UNION COUNTY

AUGUST 25 - 26, 2022
WORKFORCE, FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SYMPOSIUM AT CHERRY VALLEY

AUGUST 26, 2022
CCAO AND CEBCO BOARD MEETINGS (CHERRY VALLEY)

DID YOU KNOW?

Back to Top

Butler County

The first recorded organized intercollegiate football game in Ohio occurred on December 8, 1888, between Miami University and the University of Cincinnati in the Butler County city of Oxford, Ohio.

The game, the first entry in what would become the Victory Bell rivalry, ended in a 0-0 tie. It was the only game that Miami played that season and one of two that Cincinnati played (the other an 8-6 victory against Walnut Hills Gym).

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