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November 28, 2022

CCAO hopes that all of our readers and the dedicated county staff that serve Ohioans had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are thankful for the hard work that county employees do, often unsung, to make Ohio a better place.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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LAST CALL: CCAO Nominating Committee issues Report; form for presidential appointment available

Last week, the CCAO Nominating Committee issued its report regarding the 2023 CCAO Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Athens County Commissioner Lenny Eliason and was comprised of commissioners Judy Dodge (Montgomery County), Shannon Jones (Warren County), Tom Whiston (Morrow County), and Kathryn Whittington (Ashtabula County). The report can be read here.

Additionally, the second page of the report (available as a standalone file here) is the Request for Consideration for a presidential appointment to the CCAO board. The president receives nine appointments to the board and selects among those who have expressed interest via the form. If you applied for a board position with the Nominating Committee and were not chosen, you do not need to complete this form. Please submit the form to Robin Garrett no later than **December 3**.

LAST CALL: Call for Letters of Interest to NACo board of directors representative positions

As part of the upcoming CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, CCAO will be electing two members to the National Association of Counties (NACo) board of directors, per NACo bylaws.

We ask that individuals interested in running for these two positions submit a 1-2-page letter of interest to Robin Garrett at rgarrett@ccao.org by 12:00 p.m., **Wednesday, Nov. 30th**. CCAO will distribute these letters to Ohio NACo members on Monday, December 5th.

On Thursday, Dec. 8th during the annual meeting, CCAO will conduct an election for these two positions. This vote will be by paper ballot. Each NACo county will receive two votes, and the top two vote-getters will be the new representatives to the NACo board of directors. The elected board members would begin their terms in July 2023. This election will not impact any other NACo board positions Ohio members may hold, such as those receiving board appointments from the NACo president or due to previous service as NACo president.

Should there be a two-way tie for first place, both individuals will receive board seats. If there is a three-way tie for first place, there will be a runoff election. If there is a tie for second place, there will be a runoff election. If a tie remains after two elections, a coin toss will be conducted to determine the winner.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact Cheryl Subler or Robin Garrett.

Registration open for the 2022 CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference

Registration is now open for this year's CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference, held December 7 to 9. The theme for this year's conference is Innovation and Inspiration to Shape Ohio's Future.

You can view the Conference Program here! Please keep in mind that some rooms may change between now and the event.

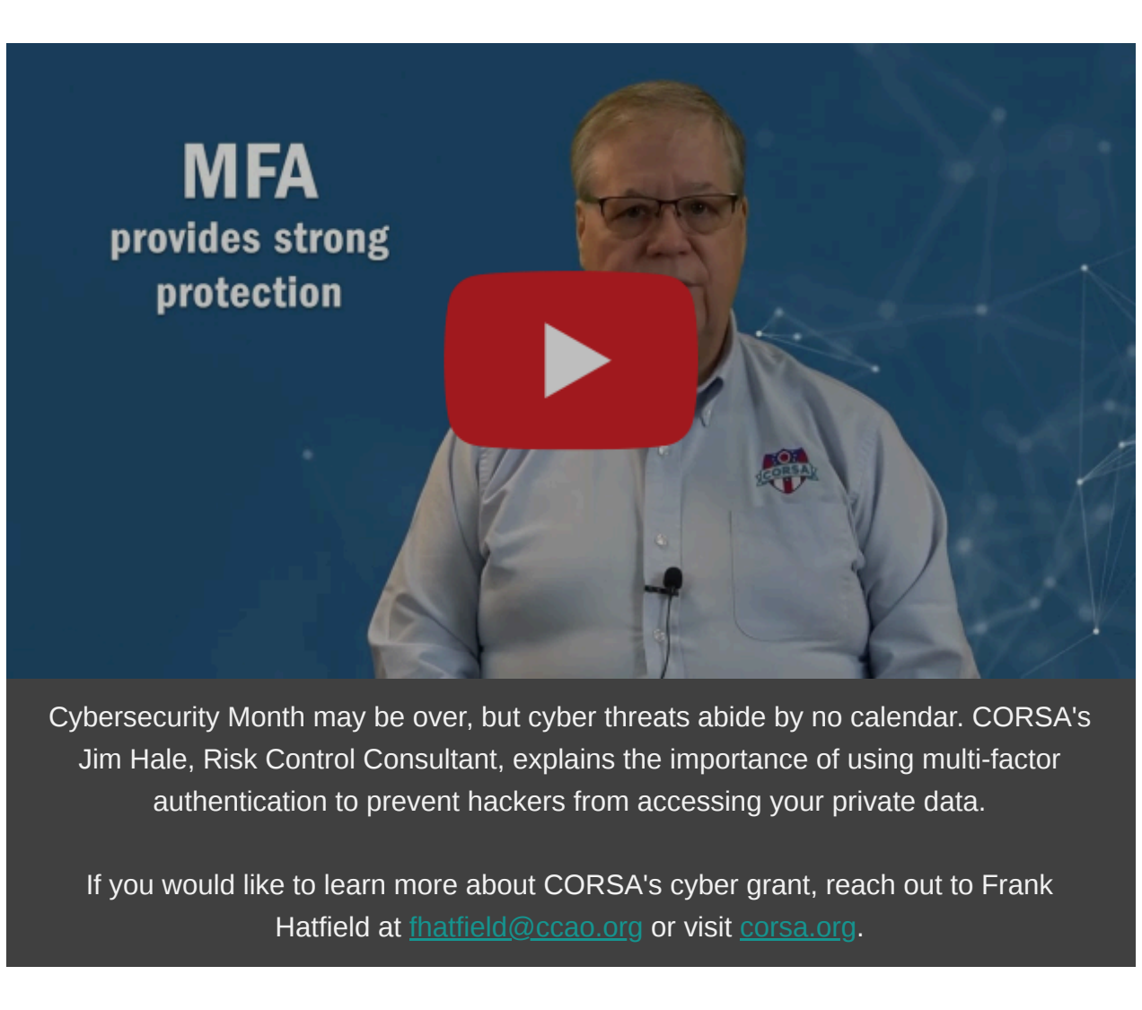
Advance parking can be reserved through the Columbus Convention Center site, accessible here.

More information about the conference and links to register and reserve hotel rooms are available on the CCAO website.

CCAO publishes Fall edition of County Leader

CCAO recently published the Fall 2022 edition of its quarterly magazine, *County Leader*. The 27-page issue features columns from CCAO President and Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman and CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler, features on Fairfield County Commissioner Steve Davis's Uber driving and the Drone Program Pilot in Noble County, and updates from CEBCO, CORSA, and the CCAO Service Corp.

Read it today!



Cybersecurity Month may be over, but cyber threats abide by no calendar. CORSA's Jim Hale, Risk Control Consultant, explains the importance of using multi-factor authentication to prevent hackers from accessing your private data.

If you would like to learn more about CORSA's cyber grant, reach out to Frank Hatfield at fhatfield@ccao.org or visit corsa.org.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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National opioid settlement with Walmart set, Ohio to receive $144 million

Two weeks ago, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and a team of negotiators established the framework for a $3.1 billion national settlement that will hold Walmart for its role in the opioid epidemic.

According to the Attorney General's office, Ohio is expected to receive more than $114 million from the settlement. These monies will be distributed through the OneOhio model. CCAO does not currently know when these funds will be distributed but we will keep our membership informed as we receive more information.

As a reminder, under the OneOhio model, 15% of settlement dollars goes to the state, 30% goes directly to local governments, and the remaining 55% goes to the OneOhio Foundation to be distributed amongst the Foundation's 19 regions.

You can access a reminder of the approved uses of OneOhio direct payments here.

NACo launches Housing Task Force; Boyce to co-chair

On November 10, NACo announced the creation of the NACo Housing Task Force to bring county government officials from across the nation together to illuminate the most critical housing challenges and opportunities from the county government perspective.

The Task Force is co-chaired by Franklin County Commissioner Kevin Boyce, along with Commissioner Sherry Maupin of Valley County, Idaho.

The Task Force wil work to develop detailed analyses regarding the challenges communities face regarding housing. The Task Force will present its final analysis at the NACo Annual Conference in July 2023.

You can read more about the Task Force at its NACo webpage.

Bureau of Workers Compensation makes reclassification of certain public employees

The BWC has issued guidance on a new manual classification for public employers effective 1/1/2023 – ***Public Employer Clerical & Clerical Telecommuter Employees***. The premium rate for this classification of employees is significantly lower than the general rate for county employees: the 2023 rate will be $0.15 per $100 payroll compared to $0.71 for other county employees. Classifying employees in the new manual could represent a significant premium savings for counties.

This BWC bulletin provides specific direction and the requirements for the new manual classification.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

Ohio Grants Summit to be held this week

On November 30 and December 1, the Ohio Office of Budget and Management will host the 2022 Ohio Grants Summit, an online, free event intended to help local governments and non-profits which apply for funding from the State of Ohio.

The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. both days and each day features four sessions.

The Day One sessions will discuss emerging issues in federal funding, preparing for audits, a discussion regarding American Rescue Plan Act funds, and water and wastewater funding in the recent federal infrastructure bill.

The Day Two sessions will discuss "Buy America" provisions of grant opportunities, how to best prepare competitive grant applications, how to leverage census data when preparing an application, and information sessions with executive agencies.

Registration for the event is free but the number of slots is limited. There are no more slots open for Day One but Day Two is still open and can be accessed through the link above. If you are unable to register in time, the event will be livestreamed on The Ohio Channel.

Overview of available grants

CCAO has added several new grants to our Grants and Funding Opportunities page. The following are grants that either have looming application deadlines or are newly posted.

- **Appalachian Community Grant Program, Round One** *(State)*
  - This grant is the first round of funding granted under Governor DeWine's historical $500 million investment in Ohio's Appalachian communities. The deadline for the first round of proposals is December 9.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant **and** Fire Department Training Reimbursement Grant *(State)*
  - These grants are open to small fire departments (serving no more than 10,000 and 25,000 residents, respectively). They aim to assist departments with purchasing equipment and paying for employee training. Their deadlines are, respectively, January 15 and January 31.
- **National Fish Passage Program** *(Federal)*
  - This program will provide assistance to remove instream barriers and enhance aquatic organisms' ability to pass through waterways. **Letters of Intent must be submitted by December 12**. This is not a complete application. If an entity is invited to submit a full application, they will have until December 31, 2023 to do so.
- **Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program** *(Federal)*
  - Available to governments within the Lake Erie Basin, this program will provide assistance to encourage conservation, restoration, research, and management of the fish and wildlife resources of the Great Lakes. The deadline to apply is January 5.
- **Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant** *(Federal)*
  - The goal of this program is to increase awareness of and the participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program for eligible low-income households. A total of $60 million is available, with each state and territory guaranteed a certain amount ($500,000 for states, $250,000 for territories). The rest will be awarded competitively. The deadline to apply is January 9.

Please visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities to see other available programs that may be of interest to your county or your community!

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.

Resources for ARPA Reporting and Compliance

The most recent version of the US Treasury Reporting Guidance was published September 20, 2022. Counties and other local governments with populations greater than 250,000 or ARPA distributions greater than $10 million are required to file Project and Expenditure Reports no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter throughout the grant period. Other recipients will file Project and Expenditure Reports annually by April 30.

Members are urged to consult resources from US Treasury, NACo, and the Ohio Office of Budget and Management for more information about reporting and how to use ARPA funds. CCAO maintains a list of ARPA links and resources, including a comparison of state and federal procurement laws, at the ARPA Resources page.

Ohio Ethics Commission issues statement regarding stimulus funds

Last week the Ohio Ethics Commission released a statement ensuring that public officials are aware that stimulus funds, such as those received under the federal American Rescue Plan Act and the funds that communities will receive under Governor Mike DeWine's Appalachian investment program, are public funds and that conflict of interest laws must be observed.

To that effect, the Commission also recirculated its Advisory Opinion No. 2009-006, issued in 2009 regarding stimulus funds made available to governments under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It provides a more in-depth examination of potential conflicts of interest with stimulus funds, including a discussing regarding vendors.

CCAO encourages members refamiliarize themselves with this Advisory Opinion and conflict of interest laws to ensure good stewardship of ARPA and Appalachia funds.

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.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Lucas County eyes "Plan B" for new jail location

13abc.com, November 22, 2022

Lucas County is now looking at "Plan B" for its new jail location.

"Plan A" was the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department site but as those negotiations continue, prices continue to rise.

This proposed site is also in downtown Toledo, so that would not change but making this one happen might be quicker and cheaper.

Near the corner of Southard Avenue and Canton Street sits the Lucas County Facilities Building. In the next few years, it could be the site of the new Lucas County Jail.

"What is the cost-benefit of this site versus the delay with the health department and we're trying to maximize the benefit for the community," said Lucas County Commissioner Gary Byers.

Northeast District

Cuyahoga County wants to spend $5 million remediating former industrial sites

Cleveland.com, November 22, 2022

Cuyahoga County Council is considering spending $5 million of COVID-19 stimulus dollars remediating former commercial and industrial sites.

Remediating the 18 brownfields would be paid for by a portion of the county's $240 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars. The $5 million is the county's share of state money, plus private funds that are being used to redevelop land.

Among the projects are plans to clean up a former Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works and Bridge Garage site in Ohio City and build a 16-story building with apartments, a hotel and a bar/restaurant and remove asbestos and contaminated soil from an old manufacturing facility to serve as a new entrance for the zoo.

Central District

County commissioners voice concerns over juvenile court salaries

Mansfield News Journal, November 19, 2022

The Richland County Commissioners continue to express concern over administrative salaries as they reviewed the proposed 2023 budget for Juvenile Court on Thursday.

However, discussions with Judge Steve McKinley and court administrator Brian Bumpus were more amicable than they were in April and May when the court asked for a $45,794 supplemental appropriation for parity pay raises for the balance of the year for deputy clerks and youth specialists in the detention area in order to keep them from leaving for other area agencies.

Commissioners approved the request but questioned larger raises given at the first of the year to the highest paid administrative employees who each were earning in the area of $100,000 per year. Commissioners also questioned the methodology for determining their pay.

Southwest District

Ross County Commissioners review budget requests for 2023

Chillicothe Gazette, November 19, 2022

The Ross County Commissioners held its annual budget review for 2023 on Monday with visits from the prosecutor, park district, coroner and more.

The Ross County Prosector's Office ran on a budget of $1,159,735 in 2022 and is requesting a budget of $1,271,335 for 2023.

Most of the budget increase is attributed to 2.5% raises for employees and the hiring of a fifth administrative assistant this year, accounting for a $34,317 budget increase.

Included in the proposed budget is a new position for a part-time juvenile investigator who would work 20 hours per week. Prosecutor Jeffrey Marks said the office is currently operating with two acting investigators who work on adult cases.

Southeast District

County looking at lighting clock tower on refurbished courthouse

The Daily Record, November 20, 2022

With the renovation of the courthouse complete, Holmes County commissioners are looking to put the finishing touches on the project by lighting the clock tower.

Chris Pratt, a representative of Jack Duffy & Associates, a lighting company, Kerry Taylor of Millersburg Electric, and Doug Hooper of Midstate Contractors, the company that did the renovation of the courthouse, have met with commissioners to discuss ways to proceed.

"We do have an opportunity," Commissioner Dave Hall said. "We have this beautiful courthouse here, and the old jail and this whole complex. Lighting would only enhance that."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 9, 2022
CCAO-CEAO WINTER CONFERENCE (Register here**)**

DID YOU KNOW?

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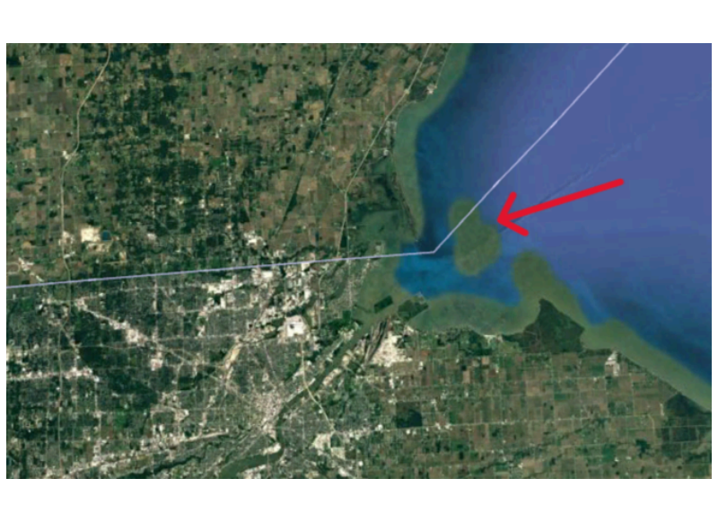
Lucas County

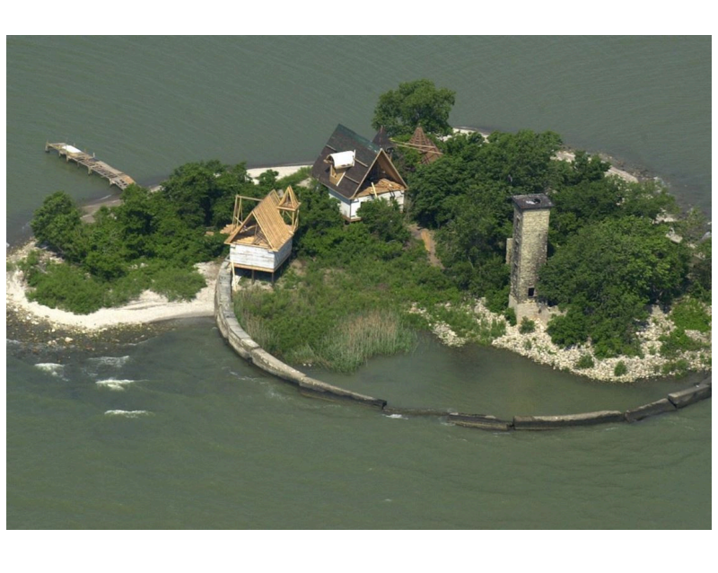
Many are aware of the dispute over the Toledo Strip that resulted in a "war" between Michigan and Ohio and was resolved by Ohio gaining the Strip and Michigan receiving the entire Upper Peninsula. The Toledo War is considered part of the impetus between the intense Michigan-Ohio State rivarly in college football.

While the majority of the border dispute was settled in 1837, it was not until 1973 that it was put to bed for good. In that year, the US Supreme Court decided Michigan v. Ohio, a case that determined the aquatic boundary between the states in Lake Erie. Michigan contended the water border extended in a straight east-west line while Ohio, as described in the state constitution, claimed it angled to the northeast. The Court ruled in Ohio's favor, finally settling the border dispute.

The quirks of history and geography were not quite done with the two states quite yet, however. The settled border sliced Turtle Island, a 1.5-acre island near the mouth of the Maumee River, between the two states. The island has no residents and only features the ruins of a few structures and an old lighthouse. As if to provide an underline on the border between the two states, the ruins of the structures lie on the Michigan side while the ruin of the lighthouse sits on the Ohio side.



Turtle Island as seen from satellite imagery. The white line represents the Michigan-Ohio border.



Turtle Island as seen from the air. This photo shows the unfinished structures from an abandoned attempt to build on the island in 2009 (left) and the ruins of the Turtle Island Light (right), commissioned in 1866, decommissioned in 1904, and partially destroyed in the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado outbreak.

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