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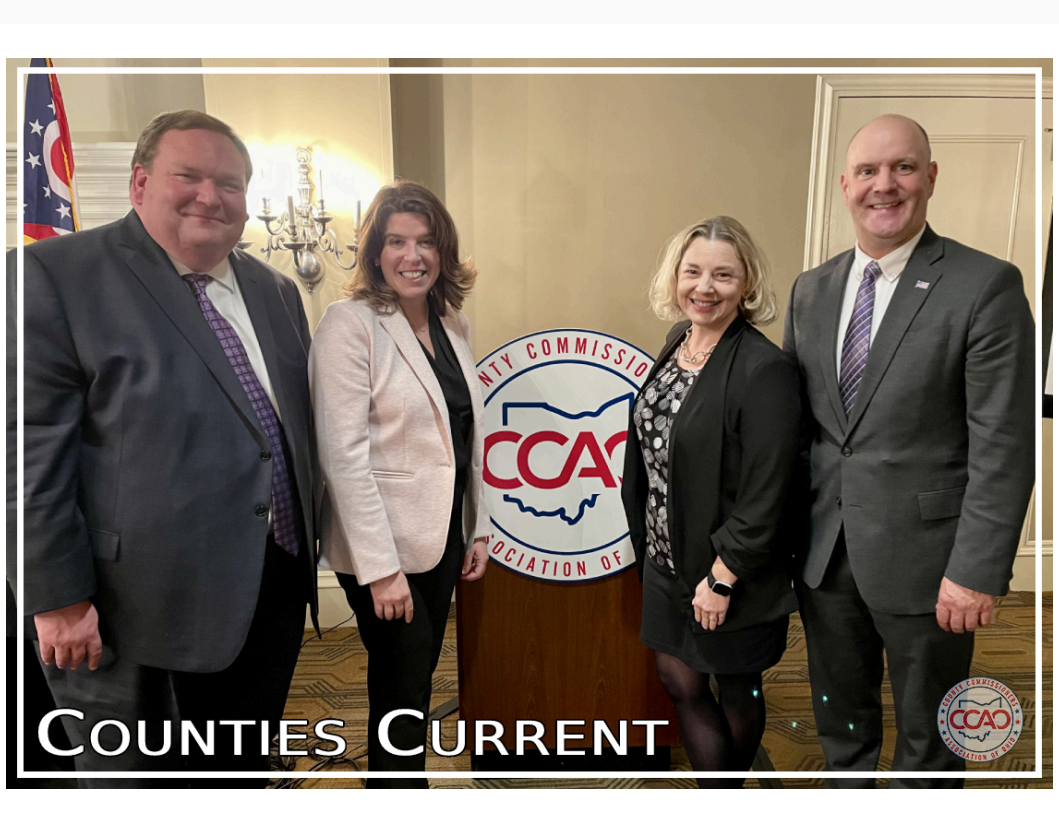

March 6, 2023

CCAO was thrilled to welcome Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Director Matt Damschroder, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Lori Criss, Office of Budget and Management Director Kim Murienks, and Ohio Department of Agriculture Director (and former Adams County Commissioner) Brian Baldridge to meet with commissioners at last week's New Member Training event.

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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

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association to host meeting on March 29

On March 29, the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association will host its quarterly meeting in Crawford County

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. with a greeting from Representative Riordan McClain and the Crawford County commissioners and engineer at 9:45 a.m.

Lt. Governor Jon Husted, a stalwart ally of counties, will join the meeting from 11:20 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. to meet with commissioners and engineers and discuss a variety of subjects.

The event will also feature discussion with representatives of Rumpke Recycling, a tour of Advanced Fiber (a local company that converts recycled material into fibers for insulation projects and other purposes), and a tour of Crossroads Candles (a local company that produces candles with glass windows allowing a chance to watch the candle-making process).

You can access the agenda and the registration form here. The deadline to apply is March 24 (the Friday before the meeting) and registration costs $18.

CCAO publishes updated Commissioners Handbook Chapter 66: Employee Benefits

Last week CCAO published an updated version of Commissioners Handbook Chapter 66: Employee Benefits. The chapter had previously been last updated in 2010.

The update was worked on by CCAO with assistance from Mark Fishel of Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLP and Heather Smith of Empower.

2023 CCAO Roster available online, physical copies to be mailed soon

2023
CCAO
ROSTER

Glenn Miller
Henry County
Commissioner
CCAO President

Cheryl Subler
Executive Director
CCAO

209 East State Street | Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5627 | www.ccao.org

The 2023 CCAO Roster is on its way! Our signature publication is a valuable resource containing contact information and photos for CCAO members and staff as well as information on your state legislators, CCAO affiliates, members of Congress and more. We hope you take advantage of this tool, as it can be helpful in a variety of ways, from reaching out to fellow members on issues affecting your county to contacting legislators as we advocate for resources that build stronger counties for a stronger Ohio.

You can access the online version immediately by clicking here.

This publication will be mailed statewide, with copies going to each board of county commissioners, county executive and county council throughout the state. Paid affiliate members, OSU Extension, the Ohio Statehouse and additional partners will also receive a copy.

Publishing our annual roster is a huge undertaking, and we could not do it without the assistance of our county clerks and administrative staff. We thank you and truly appreciate the work you do to assist counties and CCAO.

CCAO and OHPELRA launch Recruitment and Retention survey

CCAO and the Ohio Public Employer Labor Relations Association (OHPELRA) have joined together to conduct a survey of public employers across Ohio to help identify strategies that they are utilizing to retain and recruit employees during the current labor market. It is vital that public employers maintain robust workforces to provide services to their residents. By learning what colleagues in other parts of the state are doing to retain and recruit, public agencies can find what strategies would work for them in their own unique situation.

To foster participation, the results of this survey will be shared with those employers who respond one month before the results are shared generally.

This survey is open to all public employers, from county agencies, townships, school districts, state agencies, and everything in between.

You can access the survey here.

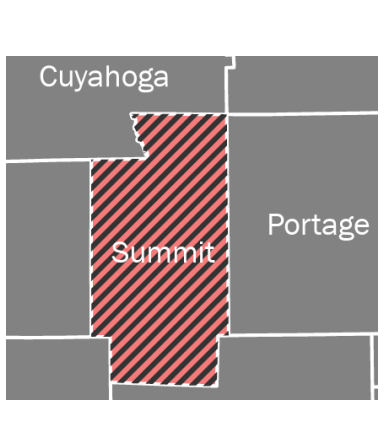
Thank you for your help in bolstering Ohio's public workforce!

Happy birthday to 27 counties!

The last week has brought birthdays to nearly a third of Ohio's counties! Twenty-four counties were born on March 1 while Summit County blew out its candles on March 3 and Lake and Ottawa counties blew out theirs today!

You can read more about the 24 counties who celebrated on March 1 here.

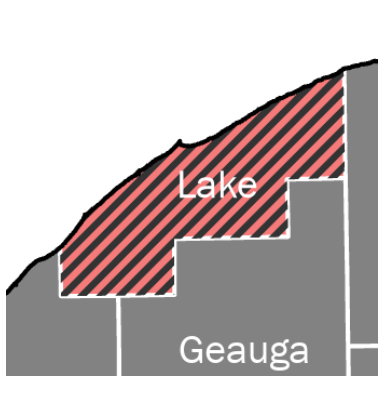
On March 3, Summit County turned 183 years old. The county draws its name from the fact that it is home to the highest point of elevation on the Ohio and Erie Canal. It was created out of parts of Medina, Portage, and Stark counties.



Summit County is the birthplace of Judith Resnik. Resnik was the second American woman to fly in space and the first Jewish woman of any nationality to do so. She was part of the maiden voyage of Space Shuttle Discovery, during which she was instrumental in deploying the first commercial communications satellites. She was onboard the Space Shuttle Challenge when it tragically broke up shortly after take-off, killing all onboard. Resnik will be featured in a recently announced painting for the Statehouse Rotunda with other Ohio space pioneers John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell, and Gene Kranz.

Exactly 183 years ago today, Lake County and Ottawa County were created.

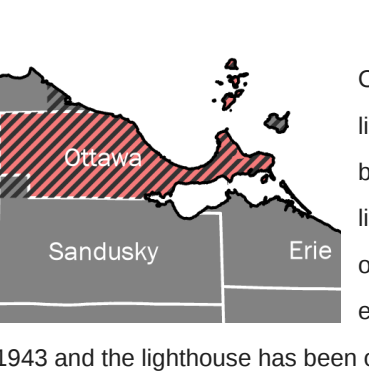
Lake County is named for its location on the shore of Lake Erie and was created from land formerly belonging to Cuyahoga and Geauga counties.



Lake County's origin story is one of the more unique of Ohio's 88 counties and has its seeds in the creation of its southern neighbor, Geauga County. When Geauga County was created, there was disagreement over where to site its county seat; residents in the northern townships wanted the seat to reside in the town of Champion (now called Painesville) while those in the southern portion of the new county wanted it in Chardon. Chardon was selected but animosity simmered between the north and south of the county. Over the decades, the population of the northern portion of the county grew faster than south, causing more tempers over the county seat location. Finally, in 1840, a petition was presented to the House of Representatives create a new county from the northern townships (and Willoughby Township of Cuyahoga County).

However, the Ohio Constitution required that counties could not be smaller than 400 square miles, a threshold the proposed county did not meet (the county is only 227 square miles). The solution? The border of Lake County was extended into Lake Erie, giving it an additional 752 square miles of territory, albeit underwater. The same maneuver was done to get other Lake Erie counties over the 400 square mile mark.

Ottawa County was created out of portions of Erie, Lucas, and Sandusky counties and is named after the Native American tribe originally in the area.



Ottawa County is the site of the oldest continuously operating lighthouse on the Great Lakes. Marblehead Lighthouse was built in 1821 over a span of eight weeks. The signal of the lighthouse has undergone numerous technological updates over the years, evolving from lit by whale oil, kerosene, electricity, and now LED lights. The last civilian keeper retired in 1943 and the lighthouse has been operated by the Coast Guard ever since.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Attorney General issues opinion on budgetary relationship between counties and OSU Extension

Last week's issue of *Counties Current* flagged two Attorney General Opinion requests that pertained to counties. On Wednesday, Attorney General Dave Yost issued the opinion for one of them.

The Muskingum County Prosecutor requested an AG Opinion on whether counties can be directly provided to a the county Ohio State University Extension office instead of being paid into the county's Ohio State University Extension fund, and if the county can charge the Extension office rent and/or utilities for its office space.

The opinion, AGO 2023-004, states that the county may not do either of the actions in question. Following an earlier AG Opinion that stated that "when the language of a statute is plain and unambiguous, the statutory text controls," the opinion finds that the language in ORC 3335.37 governing county taxation for OSU Extension is plain and unambiguous that the revenue of such a tax must be paid to the credit of teh OSU Extension fund.

To the second question, since ORC 3335.36 states that county "shall" provide offices to OSU Extension and an earlier AG Opinion states that "when a board of county commissioners has a duty to provide space for the operations of governmental entities, the board has no authority to charge such entities for rental of such space or for utilities used in that space, absent statutory authority to impose such a charge." Since the "shall" language establishes a duty for the county to provide space, and there is no clear statutory language permitting the county to charge OSU Extension for rent and utilities, the county cannot do so.

Ohio's sixth annual In-Demand Jobs Week is coming in May

The sixth annual In-Demand Jobs Week is May 1-5, 2023! In-Demand Jobs Week is the statewide celebration of the jobs, industries, and skills that are in-demand in Ohio. This year, In-Demand Jobs Week will highlight Ohio's top jobs that stem from career-focused education and the various paths available to Ohioans as they look for their next opportunity.

Example Career Pathways available in Ohio include:

- **Career Technical Education** – provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners.
- **Pre-Apprenticeships** – teaches entry-level technical and job-readiness skills for an apprentice occupation to prepare students for a formal Registered Apprenticeship training program upon graduation.
- **College Credit Plus** – helps students earn college and high school credits simultaneously by taking college courses from local colleges or universities while in high school.
- **Industry-Recognized Credentials** – demonstrates the knowledge and skills students gain through hands-on learning in a specific job or industry.

Business, education, and community leaders statewide are encouraged to partner to plan events promoting all of Ohio's opportunities, job-readiness, and more to inspire excitement and awareness among students and job seekers.

Organizations can add their event to the statewide interactive event map by emailing In-DemandJobs@JFS.Ohio.Gov with the event title, date, time, and a short description of the event.

To learn more about In-Demand Jobs Week and to view the statewide interactive event map, visit TopJobs.Ohio.Gov. With questions, please email In-DemandJobs@JFS.Ohio.Gov.

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 Safety Congress & Expo opens registration

Registration is open! The 2023 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC23®) will be live and in-person at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, March 8-10, 2023. This year, a select number of sessions will also be live-streamed.

With over 100 educational sessions and continuing education, there is something for everyone at OSC23®. Choose between 10 educational tracks, including one for government employee safety. ***Training satisfies the BWC 2-hour safety training requirement for Group Rating and Group Retro members.***

Registration is free!

New for 2023 – The Knowledge Hub located on the South side of the Expo Marketplace. Participate in live demonstrations and experience workshops on a new level.

For more information and to register, visit www.ohiosafetycongress.com.

Glenn College of Public Affairs releases Spring/Summer MAPS schedule

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University hosts a number of professional development courses every year as part of its MAPS (Management Advancement for the Public Service) program.

Courses are offered online and in-person on OSU's Columbus campus and cost $275 per course, although discounts and assistance may be available. Some MAPS courses may count towards Continuing Legal Education credits.

CCAO is highlighting the MAPS courses below that may be of interest to counties. You can find a complete listing of courses here.

Practical Skills for New Supervisors

- This course will focus on the transition from peer to supervisor roles. Participants discuss staff management, goal setting, staff evaluations, dealing with the friend v. supervisor role and discipline.
- April 5, OSU Columbus Campus

Foundations of Community Engagement

- As a community leader, it is important for you to have a good understanding of the purpose, approaches and tools for engaging your community, and working effectively with your leadership team to promote community engagement. During this session, participants will learn best practices for community engagement.
- April 11, Virtual (Zoom)

Communications Skills Bootcamp for Public Service Professionals

- This course offers strategies to improve and elevate the ability to communicate concisely, clearly, completely and credibly is a critical skill in the public policy arena.
- April 26, OSU Columbus Campus

Ohio Public Records Law; To Release or Not, That is the Question

- Learn what records citizens are allowed to see, how to provide information to reporters without violating the law, and protect your agency from lawsuits.
- May 4, Virtual (Zoom)

The Budget as an Important Tool for Management

- This course will explore budgeting concepts and practice, how budgets reflect an area's economy, demographics, and society, and how effective budgeting can be essential for the leader and manager of an organization.
- May 23, OSU Columbus Campus
- Six Continuing Legal Education credits

Current Trends in Human Resources Documentation, Communication, and Policy

- This course provides an overview of HR documentation best practices, communication strategies, and policy analysis to create safer, more equitable workplaces. Learn how to effectively document events or issues, communicate to team members, and analyze policies related to HR issues.
- June 21, OSU Columbus Campus
- Six Continuing Legal Education credits

GOPC to host Brownfields Conference in May, registration now open

The Greater Ohio Policy Center (GOPC) will host the 2023 Ohio Brownfields Conference on May 9, 2023 in Columbus! Early bird registration is open until the end of February. Register today to lock in a discounted rate.

The conference will feature an exhibitor hall for attendees to connect and network with remediation and redevelopment professionals. Information on educational panels has been announced and can be found on the OhioBrownfields.com website. Accreditation is in process for Continuing Learning Education (CLE) credits through the Ohio Supreme Court and AICP credits through the American Planning Association.

The lunchtime Keynote will be Tom Murphy, former mayor of Pittsburgh and current senior resident fellow and Canizaro/Klingbeil Families Chair for Urban Development at Urban Land Institute (ULI). During his time as mayor, Murphy initiated a public/private partnership strategy that leveraged more than $4.5 billion in economic development activity for the city. Murphy also developed strategic partnerships to transform more than 1,000 acres of blighted, abandoned industrial properties into new commercial, residential, retail, and public uses.

Full more information about the 2023 Ohio Brownfields Conference, please visit OhioBrownfields.com. Please direct any questions about registration or sponsorship to Aaron Clapper (aclapper@greaterohio.org or 740-221-9584).

Grant writing assistance and resources available

Grants are a valuable resource for counties to utilize, but knowing how best to develop competitive applications can be difficult and the learning curve cause counties to lose out on grants. Luckly, federal agencies and nonprofits offer resources to assist in developing competitive applications. Federal agency websites point to internal and external sources and many conduct free training and targeted one on one or small group technical assistance. Here are some current resources to explore:

- Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse
- Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
- Local Infrastructure Hub
- National Wildlife Federation
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- State and Community Energy Programs-Tools and Resources
- US Department of Transportation
- USDA Rural Development
- 10,000 Communities Initiative

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available

Last month, the US General Services Administration hosted an online forum to help walk state and local officials through how to use SAM.gov. The website is the primary portal for intergovernmental assistance from the federal government to state and local governments.

The Administration has made the presentation slide deck and the recording of the session available for download, as well as a one-page guide.

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.

Federal legislation increases ARPA flexibility for infrastructure, disaster response, and CDBG projects

The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 was signed into law on December 29, 2022. The legislation contains important updates to how counties and other local governments may use their ARPA funds. First, the Act codifies the standard allowance included in the US Department of the Treasury's Final Rule that permits counties to use up to $10 million for the provision of government services under the "revenue loss" eligibility category without having to demonstrate losses through a complicated formula. This codification means that the Treasury Department cannot alter the standard allowance in any subsequent rulemaking.

The Act also permits counties to use the greater of $10 million or 30 percent of their total ARPA allocation for federal infrastructure projects, responding to natural disasters, or Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects. Counties must expend these funds no later than September 30, 2026, rather than the standard date of December 31, 2026. Eligible natural disaster responses include emergency relief and the negative economic impacts of natural disasters, including temporary emergency housing, food assistance, financial assistance for lost wages, or other immediate needs. CDBG projects must meet the requirements of Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Some of the federal infrastructure programs eligible for ARPA match include the National Highway Performance Program; Bridge Investment Program; Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; and, the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program. More information, and a complete list of eligible transportation programs, is available from NACo at this link.

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

Commissioners award mowing program bid

Sidney Daily News, March 1, 2023

The Shelby County Commissioners awarded the bid for the 2023 Roadside Mowing Program in recent business.

The bid was awarded to Quick Mow, Inc. for $189,592.32. The commissioners authorized advertising for bids for the program on Jan. 12 to be submitted by Feb. 9. They also authorized obtaining price quotes for various aggregate, asphalt and liquid bituminous materials for the 2023 Road Maintenance Program as well as advertising for bids for the 2023 Resurfacing Program at the beginning of February with a due date of March 9 at 11 a.m.

On Jan. 19, the commissioners entered into a lease agreement with Jackson Center for use of property for a transmission tower for the Radio Communications Project.

Northeast District

Trumbull County commissioners set annexation hearing for May

Tribune Chronicle, March 6, 2023

The Trumbull County commissioners accepted the filing of a petition for annexation of 31.3 acres of Howland and Vienna Townships into the city of Niles.

It references the same seven parcels that have been discussed in recent months. The original petition, filed with the board in October 2022, was dropped by the landowners last week due to procedural concerns, but they promised at the time to refile, which they now have.

The annexation hearing has been set for 10 a.m. May 22.

During that hearing, the commissioners will have to decide whether the benefit to the properties being annexed outweigh the detriment to the properties that remain in the townships within half a mile of the annexed property. A decision must be released within 30 days of the hearing.

Central District

Richland County commissioners hear positive financial report

Mansfield News Journal, March 1, 2023

Richland County government had a good fiscal start to 2023. According to a financial update presented by County Commissioner Tony Vero at Tuesday's board meeting, revenue was up 19.2% in January as compared to January of 2022 while expenses were up just 0.4% for the period.

Vero said the initial reports from state and county officials showed that all revenue was 34% better in January than the previous year. However, he pointed out that the January 2022 figure did not include the county's share of the state casino tax, which came in February last year.

"So I backed out the casino tax from our January 2023 revenue to compare our top revenue sources to be a more 'apples-to-apples' comparison from January 2023 to January 2022," Vero explained. "If you look at our total revenue for January of '23, removing the casino tax out of that we still appear to be 15% better overall and our primary drivers are the sales tax and investments."

Southwest District

Clark County opens new multimillion-dollar 911 dispatch center

WHIO TV7, March 4, 2023

The Clark County Sheriff's Office and county commissioners opened a new $6 million 911 communications center earlier this week.

The project was paid for using several different funding services including bonds, 911 Wireless funding and American Rescue Plan Act dollars, according to a media release.

"The community has long recognized the need for combined 911 dispatch services to improve safety and response times," Board of Clark County Commissioners President Melanie Flax Wilt said.

The combined dispatching operation includes the city of Springfield, the city of New Carlisle and all 10 townships in Clark County.

New technology now allows dispatch to answer text messages to 911.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held later this Spring.

Southeast District

Gallia County Commission makes proclamation for March

River Cities Tribune and Register, February 28, 2023

The Gallia County Commission made a proclamation last week during their weekly meeting to recognize March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

The Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities (GCBDD) was represented at the proclamation by Superintendent Melinda Kingery and board members Marvin Sloane, Sharon Jones, and Robert Slay.

Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities were established by the Ohio General Assembly in 1967. The GCBDD serves more than 250 people with developmental disabilities throughout the county.

The Commission's proclamation reads in part: "We urge all citizens to join in this celebration by spreading awareness of the many contributions offered by people with developmental disabilities in our community." The theme of this year's celebration is "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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MARCH 17
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

MARCH 23
CCAO General Government meeting

MARCH 24
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

MARCH 29
NW Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association meeting
Group Rating Annual Meeting

MARCH 31
CEBCO Annual Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

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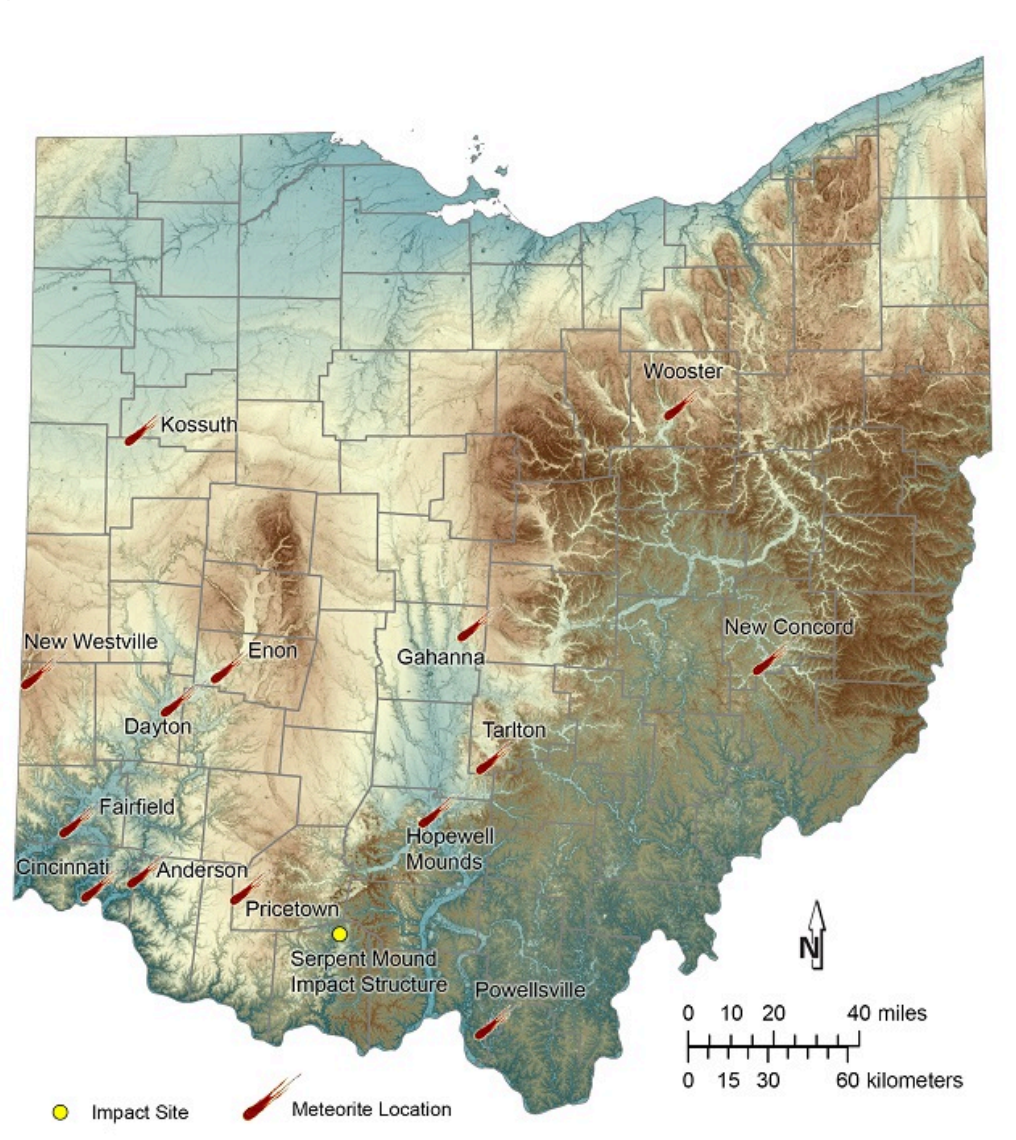
Darke County and Scioto County

Last week, a loud boom was heard over the Darke County village of Arcanum. According to the Arcanum Police Department, the boom was caused by a meteroite falling from the sky and striking the ground near a football field.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources lists 14 confirmed meteorites that have struck Ohio, with most hitting the southwest portion of the state. The most recently confirmed struck near Powellsville in Scioto County.

Ohio is also home to one of only 28 confirmed impact craters. An impact crater is geological feature formed as a result of an impact by an asteroid or comet. the Serpent Mound Impact Structure was created by an impact between 256 and 330 million years ago. That possibly places the impact when the Pangaea supercontinent was still intact!



A map of confirmed meteorite locations created by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

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