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June 12, 2023

County fair season has begun! The Paulding County Fair begins today, the official start to the county and independent fair season.

From today through October 14, when the Fairfield County Fair concludes, every week will find a fair taking place somewhere in Ohio.

You can access a full schedule here **(sorted by date and alphabetical order)!**

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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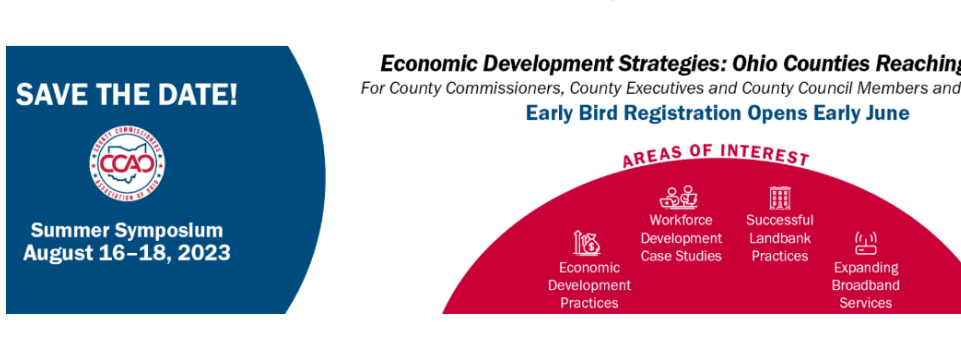

SAVE THE DATE!
Summer Symposium
August 16–18, 2023
Economic Development Strategies: Ohio Counties Reaching Forward
For County Commissioners, County Executives and County Council Members and Their Key Staff
Early Bird Registration Opens Early June
AREAS OF INTEREST
Economic Development Practices
Workforce Development Case Studies
Successful Landbank Practices
Expanding Broadband Services

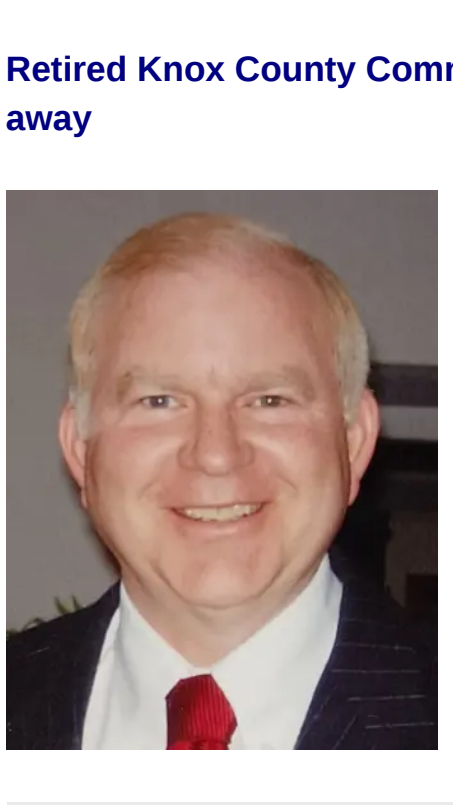
Save the date for CCAO's 2023 Summer Symposium!

Registration for CCAO's 2023 Summer Symposium is now open! Taking place at Cherry Valley Hotel in Newark from August 16 to August 18, the symposium is titled Economic Development Strategies: Ohio Counties Reaching Forward and will feature sessions on broadband, landbanks, case studies of economic development successes in counties around the state, and more.

Registration for the event can be completed on CCAO's site and reservations at Cherry Valley Hotel can be made here.

Also taking place on Wednesday, August 16, is the County Classic, a golf outing to benefit the CCAO Research & Education Foundation. The Classic will take place at the Clover Valley Golf Club in Johnstown. Transportation to the course from the Cherry Valley Hotel will be provided. You can register for the County Classic here.

Retired Knox County Commissioner Allen Stockberger passes away



Longtime Knox County Commissioner Allen Stockberger passed away last week at the age of 71.

Allen was a lifelong farmer and a dedicated public servant. He served as a Knox County Commissioner for more than twenty years, as a township trustee, and as a bus driver for East Knox Local School District.

Those wishing to pay their respects can do so through Snyder Funeral Homes.

New opioid settlements to bring nearly $680 million to Ohio communities

On Friday, Attorney General Dave Yost announced that Ohio reached settlements with drugmakers Teva and Allergan and pharmacies CVS and Walgreens over their role in the opioid crisis. The settlements will bring a combined $679.6 million to Ohio over fifteen years.

Under the OneOhio agreement, 55% of opioid-related settlements the state receives goes to the OneOhio Recovery Foundation for use at regional and statewide levels, 30% goes directly to local governments participating in the lawsuits (with some stipulations), and 15% goes to directly to the state.

The settlements include payments and policy changes from the companies. The payment timelines are as follows:

- Teva: $156 million over a 13 year period.
- Allergan: $93 million over a seven year period.
- CVS: $206.3 million over a ten-year period.
- Walgreens: $224.3 million over a 15-year period.

The policy changes that each settler must make are as follows:

- Teva: Prohibits marketing of opioids and must ensure systems are in place to prevent drug misuse.
- Allergan: Prohibits the sale of opioids for a ten-year period.
- CVS & Walgreens: Monitor, report, and share data about suspicious activity related to opioid prescriptions.

Attorney General Dave Yost releases AG Opinion regarding county jail admission

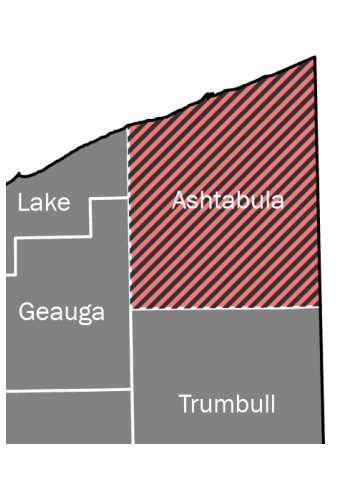
Recently, Attorney General Dave Yost released AGO 2023-007, a response to a request from the Scioto County Prosecutor's office. The opinion concerns the ability of county sheriffs to deny an arrestee admission to the county jail if the jail physician determines that off-site treatment is a medical necessity.

As a summary, the opinion states that:

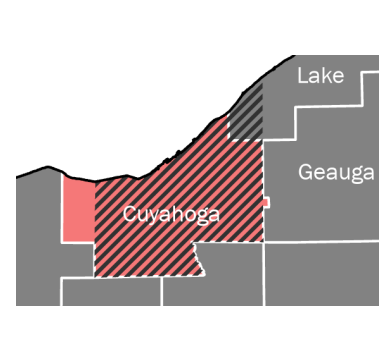
1. A county sheriff may create rules and policies to deny arrestees admission to the county jail if the jail physician determines that off-site treatment is a medical necessity. These rules must be approved by the county court of common pleas.
    1. It is not immediately clear how this procedure would work in the case of a multi-county jail.
2. The medical costs of an arrestee so denied admission are the responsibility of the law enforcement agency that has custody of the arrestee.
3. If an arrestee is denied admission based on a medical necessity, the arrestee remains in the custody of the outside law-enforcement officer and said officer is responsible for transporting the arrestee to the appropriate medical facility.

Happy birthday to Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, and Portage counties!

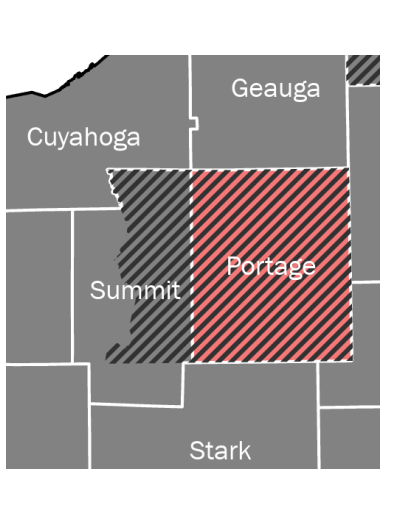
Last Wednesday, Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, and Portage counties all celebrated their 216th birthdays. They were all created out of portions of Trumbull County and Geauga County as Northeast Ohio began to take shape into its current-day form.



Ashtabula County's name is drawn from the Lenape phrase "ashte-pihele" which roughly translates to "always enough fish to go around." As the state's northern-most county, it played an important part in the Underground Railroad, home to some of the final stops before freedom-seekers could cross into Canada. The county was also the birthplace of automotive pioneer Ransom E. Olds, the innovator of the assembly line and the founder of Oldsmobile.



Cuyahoga County gets its name from the Iroquoian word for "crooked river," a name it shares with the river flowing through its borders. In a way, Cuyahoga County is the birthplace of many environmental protection regulations and agencies. The river caught fire briefly in 1969 after a spark ignited an oil slick. In coverage of the fire, Time Magazine used photos of an earlier river fire and the attention on the pollution in the river and other major riverways across the country helped spur the expansion of the Clean Water Act and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency.



Portage County gets its name from the stretch of land between the Cuyahoga River and the Tuscarawas River, over which travelers would have to carry their boats to reach the next river (an action called "portaging"). For a time in the early 20th Century, Portage County was one of the cheese capitals of the nation. In 1904, the then Aurora Township (now the city of Aurora) produced more than four million pounds of cheese, the single-year production figure in the country at the time.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Secretary of State issues updated directive on voter registration cancellations

Last week, Secretary of State Frank LaRose issued Directive 2023-10, updated instructions on data collection and cancellation procedures due to the August 8, 2023, special election that was scheduled after the previous directive (2023-05) was issued.

The main updated instruction is that boards of elections are prohibited from cancelling any voter registration under the 2019 National Change of Address (NCOA) process prior to the August 8 election. Once the election concludes, normal procedures under the NCOA Process can continue.

Please review and ensure that your county board of elections reviews the new directive.

DeWine-Husted Administration awards traffic safety grants

On Friday, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced awards under the Highway Safety Improvement Program totaling $54 million. Funding from the awards will go to projects aiming to reduce the risk of pedestrian-involved crashes and roadway departure accidents.

Projects seeking to prevent pedestrian fatalities include the installation of high visibility crossings, improved lighting, the installation of traffic calming mechanisms, and pedestrian-activated signals. Projects to reduce roadway departure incidents include flattening slopes, installing rumble stripes, and widening shoulders.

The $54 million awarded last week is the second round of awards under the program, the prior totaling $51 million in May 2022.

You can view the full list of projects funded under the grants awarded last week here and that of grants awarded in May 2022 here.

NACo partners with Homeland Security on cyber protections

With an increase in cyber threats, ranging from phishing attempts to ransomware attacks, NACo has partnered with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, a body within the US Department of Homeland Security, to promote county cybersecurity practices.

NACo members can learn more about the partnership here.

CCAO, the CCAO Service Corporation, and CORSA will highlight more cybersecurity opportunities in the coming weeks.

Three weeks remain to utilize the children services workforce recruitment and retention grant

The window for spending a one-time $15 million grant awarded by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to county public children services agencies (PCSAs) last year will **close June 30**.

The workforce recruitment and retention grant, which is managed by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, was allocated to counties by formula in June 2022 to improve recruitment and retention of frontline workers. ODJFS offered counties a number of options for spending the grant, including various types of incentives and bonuses, tuition payment and loan reimbursement, culture and climate initiatives, flexible/hybrid work options, and more. Many of these options were identified in an OSU report on the children services workforce released by PCSAO in February 2022. The grant provided a rare opportunity to offer bonuses and make purchases outside the normal course of business.

Some county agencies have spent their entire allotment, while others have scheduled retention bonuses to be paid by the end of June. According to PCSAO, grant funds **must be entirely expended by June 30**, with final reports and grant closeout due September 10.

PCSAO added that one-time funding presents unique challenges, particularly when in the form of a grant. JFS and Children Services Board directors worked closely with commissioners last year to identify the most feasible, flexible and sometimes creative spending options for the county, but given the ongoing workforce crisis, plans evolved.

With a hard deadline of June 30, commissioners can help ensure that the entire local allocation is expended by working with PCSA directors to shift unspent funds to other allowable grant expenses or to relinquish unspent funds to other counties that can use them.

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.

NACo hosting two webinars on PN-3 social determinants of health this week

This week, NACo is hosting two webinars regarding social determinants of health and their impact on children from prenatal to three.

The first, on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., focuses on rural and small suburban counties with a highlight on Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

The second, on Thursday at 2:00 p.m., focuses on urban counties with a highlight on Franklin County, Ohio. Joe Mazzola, the Franklin County Public Health Commissioner, will present.

CCAO and Huntington National Bank to host commercial card webinar

CCAO and Huntington National Bank are hosting a webinar on Wednesday, June 21, at 10:00 a.m. regarding the new Ohio County Commercial Card Consortium program.

The webinar, featuring presenters Peggy Bronson and Lisa Evans of Huntington National Bank, will discuss the benefits of joining the consortium, an overview of all the available Huntington Commercial Card product features that can be tailored to meet your county's needs, and what it takes to set up a program with Huntington Bank.

Registration is free and can be completed here.

NACo offering cyberattack simulation training to NACo members

CCAO is highlighting three NACo cybersecurity offerings that it will host this year, all of which are cyberattack simulations. The simulations are designed and presented in partnership with the Professional Development Academy, risk managers, chief information security officers, chief information officers, and more.

Registration is open only to NACo members and a single event registration costs $150 per individual. You can register for all three events at one time for $450 per individual.

The second, scheduled for September 11 to Spetember 15, is a simulation of a ransomware attack. Ransomware attacks involve a virus typically disguised as a harmless file that prohibits access to vital and sensitive files until the owner pays a ransom to regain access. If the ransom is not paid, the files may be permanent erased or released to malicious third parties.

The third simulation is scheduled for December 4 to December 8 and will focus on the employee management aspect of cyberattacks and how an aware and conscious workforce can help prevent cyberattacks.

If you are interested in joining NACo to gain access to useful trainings such as these, please contact CCAO Assistant Director John Leutz, CCAO Service Corporation Manager Steve Caraway, or CCAO Boards Liaison and Events Manager Robin Garrett.

SAM.gov, federal grant portal, walkthrough available; grant writing resources 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.

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

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.

Updated comparison of state and federal procurement law available

Bricker Graydon has shared a revised comparison of Ohio procurement law and federal uniform guidance. The document is intended to provide a comparison of the procurement rules and regulations prescribed by both federal law and state law, as they relate to Ohio counties using ARPA funds. Counties must comply with both state and federal law, where possible. Where federal requirements are more restrictive than state law, federal law must be followed. Where state law is more restrictive than federal requirements, state law must be followed.

The key revision regards state term contracts (page 8), which counties may participate in but Bricker Graydon suggests exercising caution and reviewing Auditor of State training materials before doing so.

The information presented in the chart was prepared by Bricker Graydon LLP as a service to CCAO. This information is intended solely for informational purposes of CCAO and its members and is not intended to constitute legal advice to, and may not be relied upon by, any party. Readers should engage legal counsel to provide legal advice related to any specific transaction.

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

Victim Services Agency unites with Shelby County Prosecutor's Office

Sidney Daily News, June 9, 2023

The Shelby County Commissioners passed a resolution bringing Shelby County Victim Services under the purview of the Shelby County Prosecutor's Office in response to recent House Bill 343 legislation enacted in reference to Marsy's Law. The resolution was approved on Tuesday, May 23.

Marsy's Law, which was passed in November 2017 in Ohio and took effect in February 2018, provides crime victims with meaningful rights within the criminal justice system, including information pertinent to a victim's case regarding court proceedings, victim compensation, arrest details, dialogue with prosecutors regarding case developments and negotiations, support in attending hearings, and the ability to give a Victim Impact statement.

"For many years, Victim Services of Shelby County has worked hand in hand with the Prosecutor's Office to provide information, support and advocacy for crime victims in our county," said Shelby County Prosecutor Tim Sell.

Northeast District

Stark sanitary engineer employees test modified workweek

Canton Repository, June 5, 2023

Some county employees have an opportunity to work a compressed workweek this summer.

Stark County commissioners and the Sanitary Engineer's collective bargaining unit employees have an agreement that allowing certain employees, including in the electrical, construction and collections divisions, to participate in a four-day, 10-hour schedule from May to September.

Stark County Sanitary Engineer Jim Troike estimated about half of the roughly 60 employees in operations are taking part in the voluntary program. He said the department's management proposed the idea, believing it would be more productive for employees.

"Our guys are situated here in Canton, and we have to go some extreme portions of the county to clean sewers," Troike said. "So, it's time consuming to do that and it's expensive for fuel and operating our big trucks."

Central District

Knox County commissioners vacate Perimeter Drive

Knox Pages, June 9, 2023

This time next month, Perimeter Drive on the Knox County Fairgrounds will no longer be a county road.

The commissioners approved vacating the .88-mile paved stretch of road following a public hearing on Tuesday.

County Administrator Jason Booth said there were several reasons why the commissioners decided to vacate Perimeter Drive. One is that county roads must allow public access.

However, the eastern end where Perimeter Drive connects to Fairgrounds Road is blocked off year-round. The majority of the roadway is also closed to traffic during the Knox County Fair.

Southwest District

County treasurer promotes expedited and depositor foreclosures and signals support for Lot Links return

Dayton Daily News, June 5, 2023

Dayton's got about 11,000 tax-delinquent properties but the Montgomery County Treasurer says there's a few tools that can help bring some neglected and blighted parcels back into productive use.

Treasurer John McManus said he encourages private citizens to consider initiating judicial foreclosures on tax-delinquent properties they would like to own or see change hands.

McManus also said some of Dayton's tax-delinquent properties may be eligible for expedited foreclosure.

There was a backlog of expedited foreclosure cases, as well as some administrative delays, but those issues are being resolved and the process can put properties on the path to redevelopment or reuse, he said.

Southeast District

Commissioners moving ahead on jail demolition, bed tax enforcement

Logan Daily News, June 8, 2023

In last week's county commissioner meeting, a couple of key updates were provided on issues The Logan Daily News has been following in the last year: the status of the vacant former county jail, and the enforcement of the lodging tax on hotel, motel, and short–term rental owners.

On the first, the commissioners are seeking engineering, design, and consulting services for the demolition of the old county jail, located between the county courthouse and the prosecutor's office. The building has sat vacant since 2005.

Potential bidders for the project have a deadline of June 29, this month, to submit a statement of qualifications (SOQ) to the county commissioners.

This marks the next step for a project that, according to earlier reports in The Logan Daily News, the commissioners began discussing in 2018.

Funding for the demolition is set to come through the Ohio Department of Development's Building Demolition and Site Revitalization program. The $150 million program, with at least $500,000 set aside for each of Ohio's 88 counties, is intended to help localities handle blighted structures, freeing up the property for green space or economic development.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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JUNE 15
General Government Committee Meeting
CCAO Executive Committee Meeting

JUNE 16
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE 19
Juneteenth

JUNE 30
CEBCO Board Meeting

JULY 4
Independence Day

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