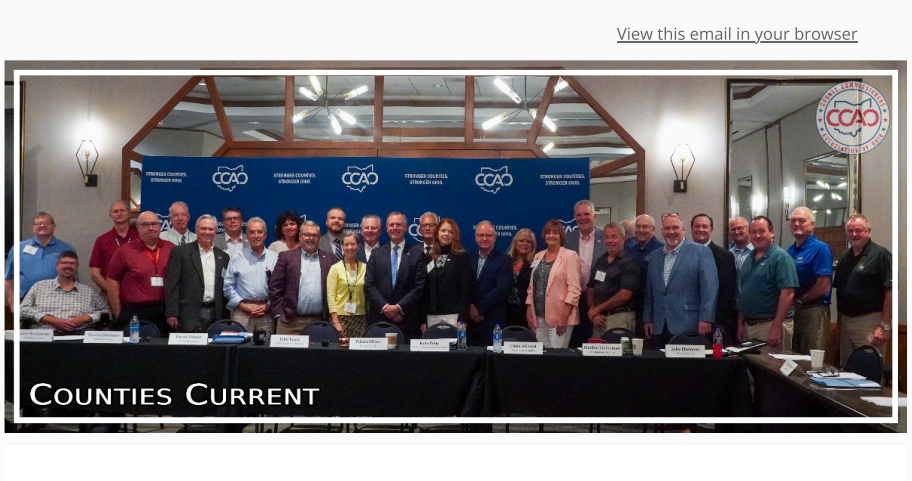

August 21, 2023

CCAO thanks all the attendees at the 2023 Summer Symposium for making the event a success! And a special thanks to Ohio Treasurer of State Robert Sprague for spending time with the CCAO Board of Directors.

More photos from the event can be found below, and on CCAO's Facebook and Twitter.

If you are having issues viewing Counties Current in your email, click [View this email in your browser] at the top of the email.

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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Thank you for attending the 2023 CCAO Summer Symposium!

Last week, CCAO hosted its 2023 CCAO Summer Symposium at the Cherry Valley hotel in Newark, Ohio. A wide range of county officials were in attendance, ranging from commissioners, county executives, and county council members, county administrators and clerks, and other key staff from a variety of county agencies.

Attendees learned about Robert's Rules of Order, the broadband landscape in Ohio, the role that county landbanks play in economic development, as well as workforce and economic development initiatives in counties around the state.

CCAO would also like to extend a special thank you to the panelists for all the sessions and to statewide officials for spending time in roundtable discussions with county officials and staff. Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor DeWine Giles Allen, Director of Agriculture Brian Baldridge, Director of Development Lydia Mihalik, and Director of the Ohio EPA Anne Vogel all sat down with representatives of counties to hear their issues and discuss initiatives their departments and offices are taking to help counties tackle issues in their communities.

We also hosted a panel with legislators to inform members on the role counties can play in advocating for Association priorities and their individual county issues, inform members of pending legislation that will benefit counties, and more. Special thanks to Representative Thaddeus Claggett, House Assistant Minority Whip Dontavious Jarrells, Representative Adam Mathews, House Minority Leader Allison Russo, Senator Tim Schaffer, and Representative Brian Stewart for coming to Newark to spend time with the Association.

Finally, a thank you to Treasurer of State Robert Sprague for attending the CCAO Board of Directors meeting on Friday to discuss initiatives from his office that counties can utilize to help streamline services and strengthen their communities.

Attendees will be receiving a post event email this week which will include a brief survey to assist CCAO in planning future events.

Presentations from the sessions held at the event are available on CCAO's website in the Events page.

Above:

- *Top Left: Director of Development Lydia Mihalik*
- *Top Right: Director of Agriculture Brian Baldridge*
- *Middle Left: Director of Legislative Affairs for Governor DeWine Giles Allen*
- *Middle Right: Ohio EPA Director Anne Vogel*
- *Bottom: Treasurer of State Robert Sprague*

Above:

- *Top Left: House Minority Leader Allison Russo*
- *Top Right: Representative Brian Stewart*
- *Middle Left: Assistant House Minority Leader Dontavious Jarrells*
- *Middle Right: Representative Adam Mathews*
- *Bottom Left: Representative Thaddeus Claggett*
- *Bottom Right: Senator Tim Schaffer*
- *Bottom: The legislative panel with moderator, CCAO Board of Directors Secretary, and Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski*

Membership survey: Projected indigent defense budget

CCAO is working with the Office of the Public Defender to collect county projections on indigent defense budgets to help the statewide office set reimbursement rates. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, available here, by September 31. The survey includes an option to upload files if you would like. Please note that due to limitations in the survey software, only Word documents and PDFs are able to be uploaded. If you would like to provide an Excel document, please either save it as a PDF or email it directly to CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

The more information that we can provide OPD, the more accurate of a reimbursement rate the office can set. Thank you for your help!

Summer edition of County Leader available now!

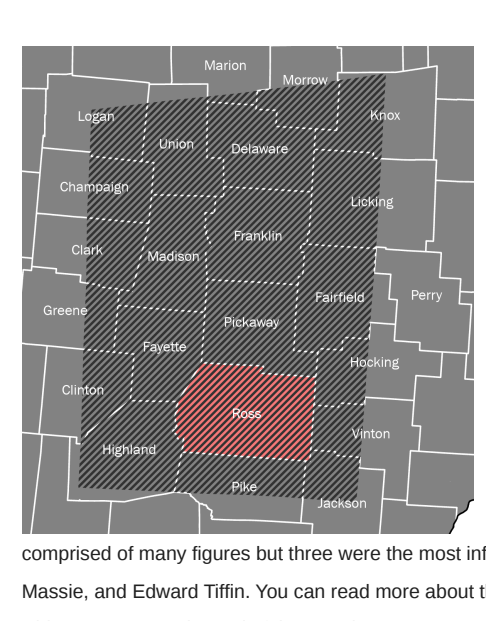
CCAO published recently the Summer 2023 edition of our quarterly magazine, County Leader. Inside, you can read an overview of recently-passed state budget and its impacts on counties, meet the winners of the inaugural Ohio Counties Scholarship, learn more about Holmes County Commissioner Dave Hall, and more!

County Leader also includes insights from CORSA, CEBCO, and the CCAO Service Corporation. Learn how CEBCO is expanding, meet CORSA's newest board of directors member and learn about CORSA grant opportunities, and read about how to secure your county against emerging cyberthreats. Additionally, CORSA Loss Control Manager Frank Hatfield provides an overview of the recent Attorney General Opinion regarding off-site arrestee medical treatment policies.

Read on!

Happy birthday Ross County!

Yesterday, Ross County celebrated its 225th birthday! The county, one of Ohio's pre-statehood counties, was created out of portions of Adams County, Hamilton County, and Washington County. The county is named after James Ross, a Federalist senator from Pennsylvania who first rose to prominence when he was appointed by President George Washington to help lead negotiations with rebels during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1791 to 1794.



Ross County had a profound impact on the early days of Ohio's history. The county seat of Chillicothe was the final capital of the Northwest Territory and the first capital of the newly-created State of Ohio. The city was the first and third capital of the state (Zanesville briefly served as the capital for two years) before the capital moved to its current location of Columbus.

Additionally, several instrumental leaders in Ohio's early history hailed from Ross County. The "Chillicothe Junto" was comprised of many figures but three were the most influential: Thomas Worthington, Nathaniel Massie, and Edward Tiffin. You can read more about the roles these men played in this week's Did You Know? at the end of the newsletter.

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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BroadbandOhio's BEAD program proposal open for public comment

As part of the state's efforts to secure federal funding to help extend broadband services to every home and community in the state, BroadbandOhio has opened Volume I of its initial proposal for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding to public comment.

Volume I outlines the existing funding within Ohio, a list of locations designated "unserved" and "underserved" in the FCC Broadband Map, and more details. BroadbandOhio is looking for comments that would assist the agency in addressing issues beyond connectivity, such as affordability, device access, and digital skills.

The agency wants to hear from all Ohioans, but particularly those in unserved and underrepresentated populations. These include Ohioans on low-income or fixed incomes, veterans, individuals with disabilities, aging Ohioans, non-native English speakers, and other unserved communities.

Helping BroadbandOhio refine its BEAD proposal is vital to securing federal funding. Under recent Congressional actions, there is more than $45 billion available to state and local communities to expand and enhance broadband services. We want to make sure that Ohio gets as much of that money as possible.

Please share this information with those in your communities and take measures to facilitate comment by those in your communities who may not currently have broadband services.

You can learn more about the public comment period on BroadbandOhio's website. Comments on the draft should be sent to BroadbandOhio@development.ohio.gov by September 22.

NACo provides analysis of new allowable uses and guidelines for ARPA funds

On August 10, the US Department of Treasury released a new Interim Final Rule (IFR) for ARPA funding in light of an amendment that recently passed which expanded the allowable usages for the funds. All of the existing allowable usages are unchanged.

NACo has provided an analysis of the new IFR, available here. Additionally, last week NACo held a membership call to discuss the IFR. The slide deck is available here and a recording is available here.

The new IFR added three new allowable uses, discussed in turn.

Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
Counties may now use ARPA funds to provide relief from natural disasters or mitigate the negative economic effects of a natural disaster. The eligible uses are broad, as long as they are tied to the natural disaster. The NACo analysis has a helpful, but non-exhaustive, list of allowable usages.

Additionally, ARPA funds can be used to mitigate the threat of future natural disasters. Examples of eligible usages include structure elevation, structural retrofitting, and others.

Surface Transportation Projects & Community Development Block Grant Projects
ARPA funds can now be used for surface transportation projects and CDBH projects, subject to some limitations. These limits include a limitation on contribution, a prohibition on supplanting funds, and a compliance with other laws.

Counties may only use an amount equal to the greater of $10 million or 30% of the county's total ARPA allocation for transportation and CDBG projects. For example, if a county received a total allocation of $58 million, 30% of that is $17.4 million. That is the maximum amount the county can use for these two types of projects. It can be split between the two in any proportion as long as the total does not exceed $17.4 million.

Counties must use ARPA funds to supplement, not supplant, other funds being used for the project. For example, if a county is working on a surface transportation project and has already allocated $4 million for it, it cannot withdraw that $4 million and replace it with ARPA funds. The ARPA funding can be added to it to enhance the project, but not to keep the project scope the same while withdrawing local funds.

Generally speaking, using ARPA funds for surface transportation projects and CDBG projects must comply with other applicable laws. This includes certain environmental laws, procurement laws, and more. The NACo analysis provides more detail on this issue.

Finally, funds used for surface transportation or CDBG must be expended by September 30, 2026. This is earlier than the deadline for other usages (December 31, 2026).

Please utilize the resources linked to above to help gain an understanding of the guidelines for the new allowable usages.

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.

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities to host county-only webinar on accessibility grants

On September 6, the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities and the program manager for Accessible Ohio will be hosting a webinar solely for counties to discuss Accessible Ohio and grants available to local governments to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.

The webinar is being held only for counties and will feature a short presentation before moving to a dialogue session so the agency can learn about then needs that counties have in the accessibility space. CCAO highly encourage counties to take this opportunity to speak directly with the state body that will be administering these grants to inform them what their local needs are.

Registration is at no cost and can be completed here. We hope to have a robust conversation on September 6.

Treasurer of State and Auditor of State hosting fiscal officer educational event in October

On Tuesday, October 26, the Center for Public Investment Management (CPIM), a joint body of the Ohio Treasurer and the Ohio Auditor, will be hosting an event on the role of fiscal officers.

The event, titled "Leadership in Public Finance and Economic Development," will provide information and training tailored to the role that government fiscal officers play in economic development planning. Up to six hours of continuing education credits are available through the event.

Members of CPIM do not have to pay any cost to attend the event, as it is covered in the annual $100 fee. Non-members may still attend the event but must pay a $100 registration fee.

Registration can be completed here. More information, including course descriptions and speakers, are expected in the coming weeks.

Ohio Land Bank Association hosting webinar focused on rural areas

On Tuesday, August 29, the Ohio Land Bank Association will be hosting a webinar titled, "Regionalizing and Managing Rural Land Banks" with a presentation by Estee Miller, the Community Development Planner for the Maumee Valley Planning Organization. The organization assists five counties (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams) with their land bank operations.

The webinar will discuss how land banks in different counties can work cooperatively to improve border areas. While the webinar is focused on the experience of the Maumee Valley counties, CCAO encourages all counties to attend to take home lessons on cross-county partnerships.

Registration is free and can be completed here.

MAPS courses for 2023-2024 announced by Glenn College of Public Affairs

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University has released the schedule for 2023-2024 Management Advancement for the Public Service (MAPS) courses.

MAPS is intended to sharpen the skills of individuals to lead in public affairs areas. Courses are single-day and cost $275 per course. Classes are either held via Zoom or in-person on the OSU Columbus campus. Continuing education credits are available for participation.

The full list of courses can be found here. CCAO is highlighting a few that may be of particular interest to counties.

October 10 & January 30:
Battling Emotional Exhaustion - Learn to address the issue of burnout and how to mitigate emotional exhaustion both for yourself and for your staff. Both offered virtually via Zoom.

November 2:
Elevation through Effective Delegation - Learn how to best address complex issues by efficiently delegating tasks to development members of your team. Offered virtually via Zoom.

February 8:
Accelerate Success: Mastering Onboarding and Role Transitions - Successful onboarding is vital to efficient operations, particularly in areas with high turnover. Learning how to create the best onboarding and transition procedures can help agencies perform at higher levels. Offered virtually via Zoom.

April 10:
Fundamentals of Grant Writing - Learn how to write a compelling and persuasive grant proposal to increase your likelihood of winning competitive grants. Offered in person on OSU's Columbus campus.

Registration now open for inaugural Ohio Workforce Association training conference

The Ohio Workforce Association (OWA), in partnership with the International Association of Workforce Professionals, is hosting an inaugural workforce training conference on September 21 and 22.

Registration for the event, to be held at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio, is open now and can be completed here. Registration fees are $395 for registrants before August 31, $355 for OWA member directors, WDB staff, and IAWP members, and $425 for registrants after August 31.

Tentative sessions include business services innovations, self-care for professionals, highlighting of innovative Ohio Means Jobs Center services, and more!

More information regarding the event, including how to book hotel rooms at a reduced rate, can be found on OWA's website.

Grant round-up: cemeteries, ambulances, reconnecting communities, and homeless youth

CCAO has posted a number of grant availabilities on its website. A brief listing of some of these grants is provided below, with information about the grants' purpose, funding available, and application deadline.

- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (Federal)
  - Purpose: To support planning and capital construction activities that aim to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation or replacement of highways, roadways, or other infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access or economic development.
  - $198 million available
  - Deadline: September 28
- Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (Federal)
  - Purpose: To quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.
  - $3.1 billion available.
  - Deadline: September 28

You can view the full listing of available grants and funding opportunities on the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website.

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.

The second, scheduled for September 11 to September 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 causes counties to lose out on grants. Luckily, 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 Bipartisan 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
Preventative Narcan vending machines installed in 3 county locations
BG Independent News, August 15, 2023
The Wood County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (WCADAMHS) Board installed three preventative Narcan vending machines throughout Wood County in August.

The three vending machine sites include the Wood County Health Department, 1840 E. Gypsy Lane Road, Bowling Green; Midwest Recovery Center, North Baltimore; and Harbor, 800 Commerce Drive, Perrysburg.

Narcan the nasal spray equivalent of naloxone, is a medication approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose. The medication cannot harm individuals nor can it give anyone a "high." It can only reverse the effects of an opiate overdose. Individuals should always dial 911 after administering Narcan and/or if it is an emergency other than an opiate overdose.

To utilize any machine, individuals are to dial 419-567-"NO OD" (6663), then be asked a series of anonymous, basic demographic questions. They will then be given a four-digit code to use at the machine to dispense. Preparing by calling prior to approaching the machine is encouraged, but not required. The vending machines are designed to be for preventative use ONLY – not during active emergencies This service does not replace 911. Vending codes will only be provided during regular WCADAMHS business hours and closed on major holidays. Additional opiate treatment resources will be provided during the call.

Northeast District
Mahoning County, Ohio takes up solar farm issue
WKBN, August 17, 2023
Mahoning County could soon follow in the footsteps of neighboring Columbiana County when it comes to those big commercial solar panel energy farms.

Commissioners voted Thursday to hold a public hearing next month on a request by Green Township Trustees to ban the large solar panel arrays. Board members say they're working with local officials to follow the wishes of township neighbors

It's expected Green Township won't be the only community they hear from.

"Normally, what happens is when they see how it unfolds within their community, other townships within Mahoning County follow suit or ask for a similar type of scenario," said Commissioner David Ditzler. "We're hoping that we will get a group of townships that come for the second phase."

Central District
County, college argue property lawsuit in appeals court
Perry Tribune, August 16, 2023
Attorneys for Perry County and Hocking College made their respective arguments Thursday to Ohio's Fifth District Court of Appeals, in the latest chapter of a legal dispute over which of them should be named rightful owner of 15 acres of land near the college's Perry County campus.

The county gave the land to the college for free in 1993 as part of a 25-acre parcel, with what it claims was the clear understanding that it would all be used for public education. Since then the college has used five acres to construct a building that's used for education, and given another five acres back to the county. But after it put out a request for proposals early last year, indicating it had plans to sell or lease the remaining 15 acres, or develop them for commercial use, the county commissioners sued in Perry County Common Pleas Court. They claimed that if the college used any of the donated land for financial gain rather than public purposes, this would violate the terms of the original donation, requiring ownership of the acreage to revert to the county.

A judge in common pleas court ruled in the college's favor, accepting its central argument that the 1993 deed that transferred the land clearly maintains the college's standing as its rightful owner. The county then appealed that decision to the Fifth District court.

Southwest District
MC Commissioners OKs contracts, quotes, order changes
Miami Valley Today, August 13, 2023
Several contracts, quotes and order changes were OK'd by the Miami County Board of Commissioners, as well as the requisition for a water/wastewater crew leader during its Tuesday, Aug. 8, meeting.

The Board of Commissioners also approved or accepted:

• The adoption of the revised Miami County Communication Center standard operating procedures manual, compensation section to include a formula to determine non-union, non-classified supervisory employee rate of pay; non-union and non-classified employee personal leave; vacation accrual rate after 23-years of service; and holiday pay withholding.

• A language interpreter agreement with Propio Language Services, of Overland Park, Kansas, for interpreter services for non-English speaker 911 callers on an as needed basis. The agreement is effective upon signing and the initial term is for three years, unless terminated by either party.

• An order change for the Miami County Fairground fence replacement project to the contract with Allied Fence Builders, of Dayton, for a total addition in the amount of $3,500, to complete work at the "L" section of the fence at southwest corner of grandstand.

Southeast District
Harrison County breaks ground on new jail expansion, aiming to cut costs and reduce overcrowding
WTOV9, August 17, 2023
For the first time in nearly 100 years, a new jail is being built in Harrison County, as officials broke ground on Thursday.

The ceremony was attended by officials from state and county government, as well as members of the design team who were there to give the first glimpse of what the new 22,000-square-foot facility will look like.

The hope is they'll all meet up in 16 months for the ribbon cutting.

The current jail, built in 1925, holds only eight inmates, and Sheriff Joe Myers says the new facility will help keep deputies within the county, rather than having to transport inmates elsewhere.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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AUGUST 25
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER 4
Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 8
CORSA Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 21
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 21-22
CCAO Board of Directors Retreat and Board Meeting

County Fair Dates:
You can access a full schedule here.

DID YOU KNOW?

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Ross County

As noted in Ross County's birthday note, the "Chillicothe Junto," a pro-statehood collection of Ohioans, was comprised of many figures but three were the most influential: Thomas Worthington, Nathaniel Massie, and Edward Tiffin.

Thomas Worthington, for whom the city of Worthington is named, was an early advocate for statehood. He served as one of Ross County's delegates to the state constitutional convention in 1802, served as one of the state's first two senators (and would later serve another Senate term), and was the sixth governor of the state.

A non-political influence he had is seen on nearly every official document published by the state: the Great Seal. The rolling fields and sunrise are based on a view from Worthington's estate, named Adena. His estate not only contributed the design of the Great Seal but also the name of the Adena Culture Group, a prehistoric native group whose artifacts were first found on the grounds of his Adena estate.

Nathaniel Massie was an early surveyor in the Northwest Territory, including much of what would become Ohio. He founded several early towns, the most prominent among them Chillicothe which, as noted above, was the first and third state capital and the Ross County seat. Massie served as the first Speaker of the Ohio Senate (a position since retitled to President of the Senate) and was elected to be the state's second governor but declined the position. He is the namesake of Massie Township in Warren County.

Edward Tiffin was the only three of the main Junto players who was born in England, moving with his family to Virginia when he was 17. He married Thomas Worthington's sister and traveled to Chillicothe with his new brother-in-law. He was the first doctor in the city and served as the president of Ohio's constitutional convention, the first governor of the new state, the third senator from the state, and the eighth Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Tiffin also played a small role in two national affairs. In the early 1800s, Aaron Burr, a former Vice President, had begun the "Burr Conspiracy" by which he planned to take over some portion of the southwest of the country (land recently acquired by the United States via the Louisiana Purchase). While the exact aim of the conspiracy is debated, what is certain is that Burr was gathering men on Blennerhassett Island on the Ohio River. Tiffin, in his role as governor, sent the state militia to break up the forces on the island, helping to disrupt to weaken the plot and drive Burr and his co-conspirators to New Orleans where they were turned over to President Thomas Jefferson.

The second national affair that Tiffin found himself in was the War of 1812. At the time, he had been serving as the Commissioner of the General Land Office, a post where he oversaw public lands in the United States. When it appeared likely that the nation's capital would be sacked by the British, Tiffin was instrumental in preserving federal land records by evacuating them from the city before the British arrived.

Tiffin is the namesake of the city of Tiffin, the county seat of Seneca County.

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