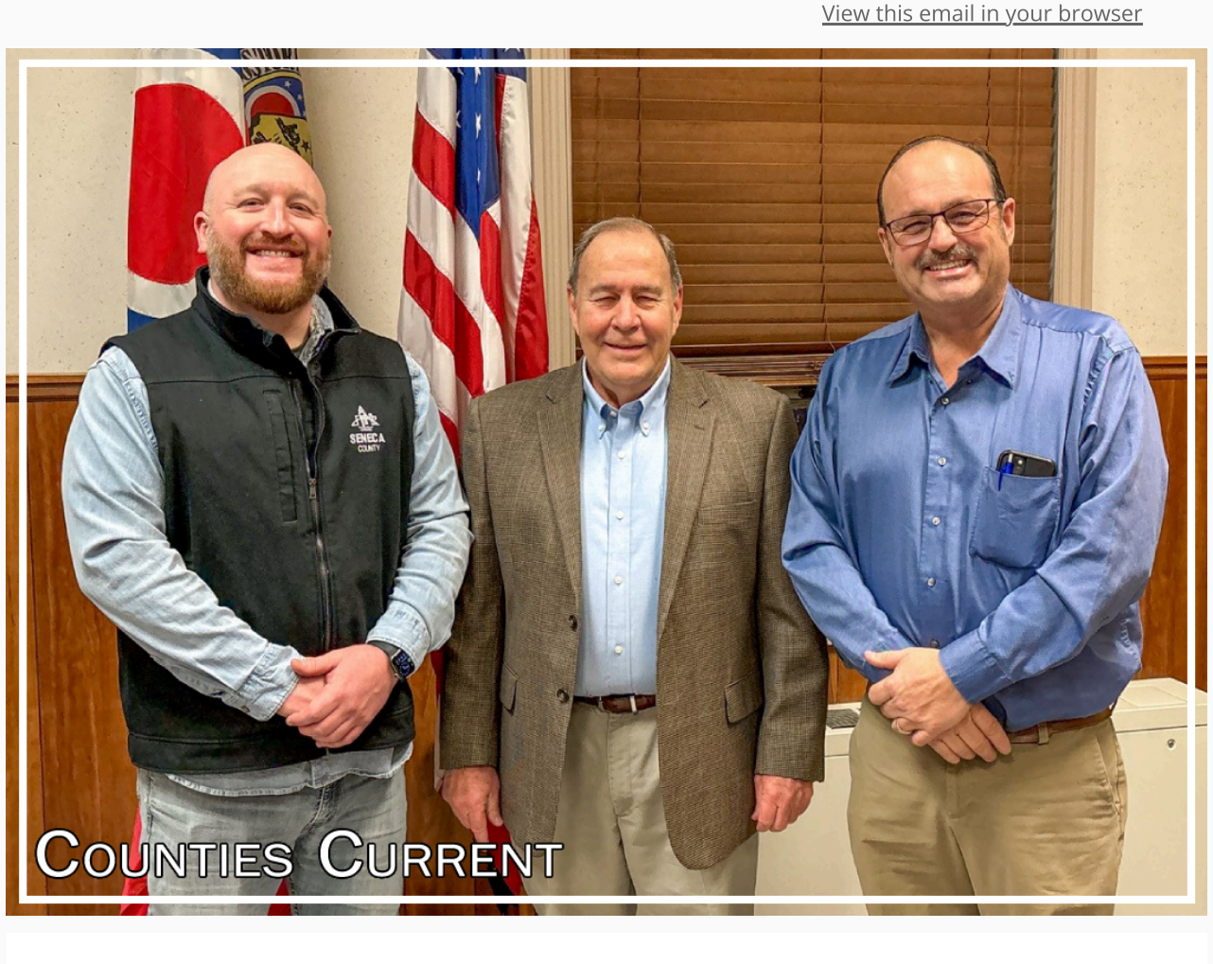

January 8, 2024

Seneca County Commissioners Tyler Shuff (left) and Bill Frankart (right) attended the swearing-in ceremony for Fostoria Mayor Don Mennel (center) last week.

Photo courtesy of Seneca County.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Anita Lopez selected to serve unexpired Lucas County Commissioner term

The Lucas County Democratic Party selected Lucas County Auditor Anita Lopez to fill the county commissioner seat vacated by Commissioner Tina Wozniak's retirement at the end of 2023.

Lopez will be sworn in today and will serve on the board with fellow Democrats Pete Gerken (a CCAO Board of Directors member) and Lisa Sobecki for the remainder of the unexpired term.

The seat is up for election this year, with Lopez and Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson vying for the Democratic nomination and Waterville city councilman John Rozic and former Toledo city councilman Tom Waniewski competing for the Republican nomination.

Congratulations to Commissioner Lopez!

Frank Hatfield promoted to CORSA Assistant Director

Congratulations to Frank Hatfield, who was promoted to Assistant Director of CORSA last week! He will continue his duties as Risk Manager in addition to helping manage CORSA.

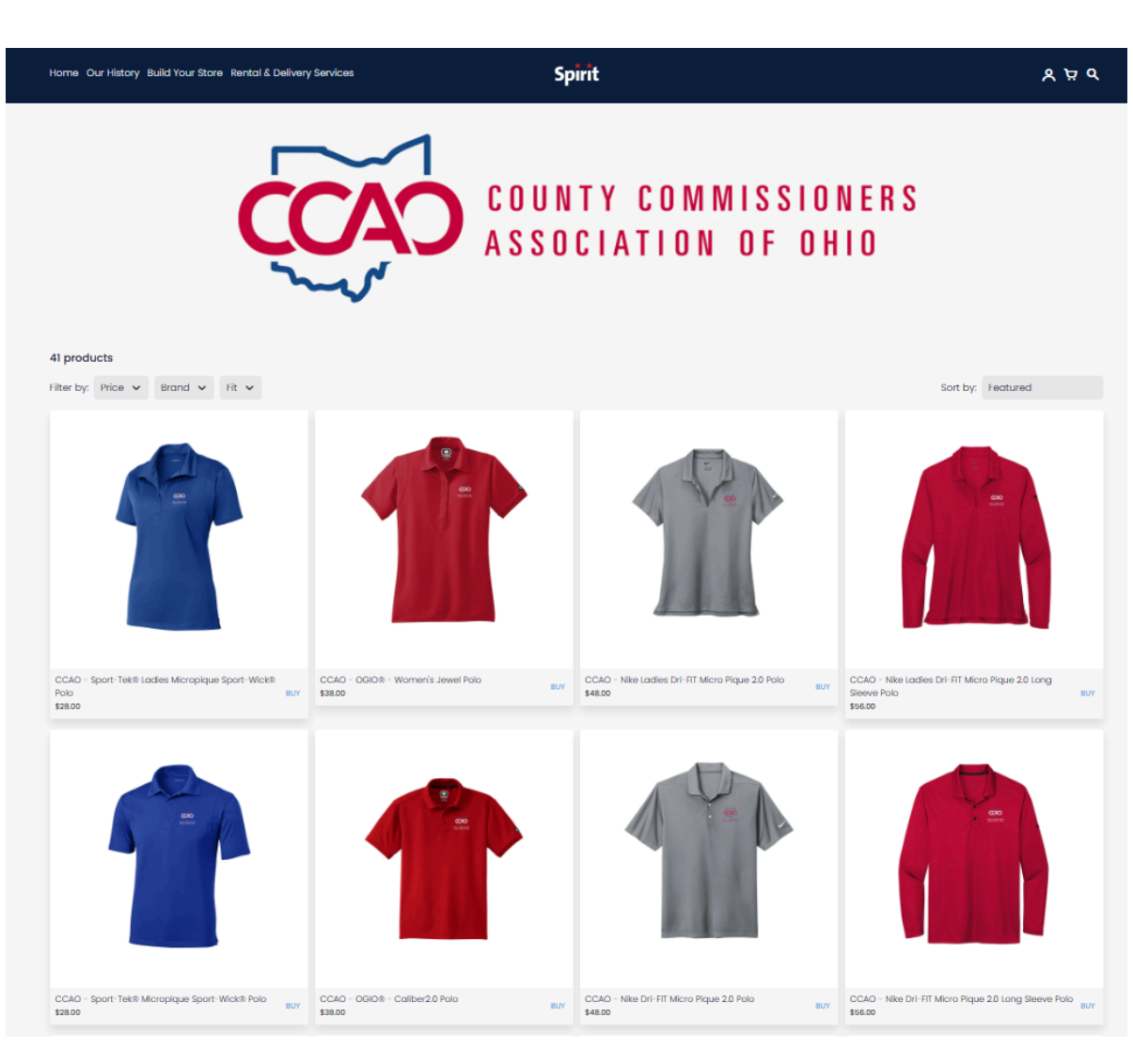
Frank has been part of the CORSA team since 2018. Prior to joining CORSA, Frank worked as a partner with Fishel, Hass, Kim, Albrecht and Downey LLP and has human resources experience with several companies, including Big Lots and the United Parcel Service.

CCAO launches new merchandise store

Time to get your CCAO on!

CCAO proudly launched a new online merchandise store featuring more than 40 CCAO-branded products. Store features include shirts, sweaters, pullovers and more. The Association continues to develop new products to include in the store that represent CCAO's mission and celebration of county government. The store offers easy ordering and shipping options and a "quick shopper" feature to highlight some of the most popular items.

You can shop the store here.


Home Our History Build Your Store Rental & Delivery Services
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CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
41 products
Filter by: Price Brand Fit
Sort by: Featured

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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NACo accepting applications for 2023 Achievement Awards

NACo has officially put out the call for applications for NACo Achievement Awards. The award program, entering its 54th year, celebrates outstanding county government programs and services.

Achievement Award winners will be featured in County News, NACo's primary newsletter, and will be honored at NACo's Annual Conference. The recognition is also useful for highlighting important projects to your local community.

The awards cover 18 program categories, such as Children and Youth, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, Health, Human Services, Planning, Transportation, and more.

Last year, Ohio counties received 14 Achievement Awards, and CCAO received its first Achievement Award! You can view a full list of NACo Achievement Award winners dating back to 2009 at NACo's award database.

The deadline to submit applications is March 30, with applications submitted before February 23, receiving a savings on the application fee.

Three weeks remaining to register for NACo Legislative

Registration at a discounted rate for the 2024 NACo Legislative Conference (to be held in Washington, D.C., February 10 - 13) will continue until Friday, January 26. Registration for member counties is $575 until January 26; afterwards, "on-site" registration will cost $690. For non-member counties, the costs are $810 and $960, respectively.

The Legislative Conference brings the nation's county officials together to discuss federal policy issues that impact counties and offers the chance to engage with federal policymakers, both elected members of Congress and federal agency officials.

You can register for the conference and access more materials about it here.

Supreme Court of Ohio offers conflict resolution services for public officials

Government Conflict Resolution Services (GCRS) is a program offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio to provide flexible and practical assistance in resolving and preventing conflict among public officials on various matters including, but not limited to, budget issues, public records requests and other organizational issues, without court involvement.

GCRS is provided at no cost to public officials and will take place at a location agreed upon by the parties.

There are three services offered through GCRS:

Neutral Evaluation: The parties to a dispute present their claims and/or defenses and describe their evidence to a neutral third party. The third party then shares their impressions about the strengths and weaknesses of each side.

Mediation: A neutral third party called a mediator helps the parties communicate and negotiate with each other to help them reach a voluntary agreement regarding the dispute.

Facilitation: A process that focuses on the tasks needed to run a productive and impartial meeting. A neutral third-party moderates discussion and is primarily aimed at assisting individuals refine communication and organizational skills so they can work more efficiently with each other in a group setting.

You can acquire more information, as well as forms to request services, on the Supreme Court of Ohio's website.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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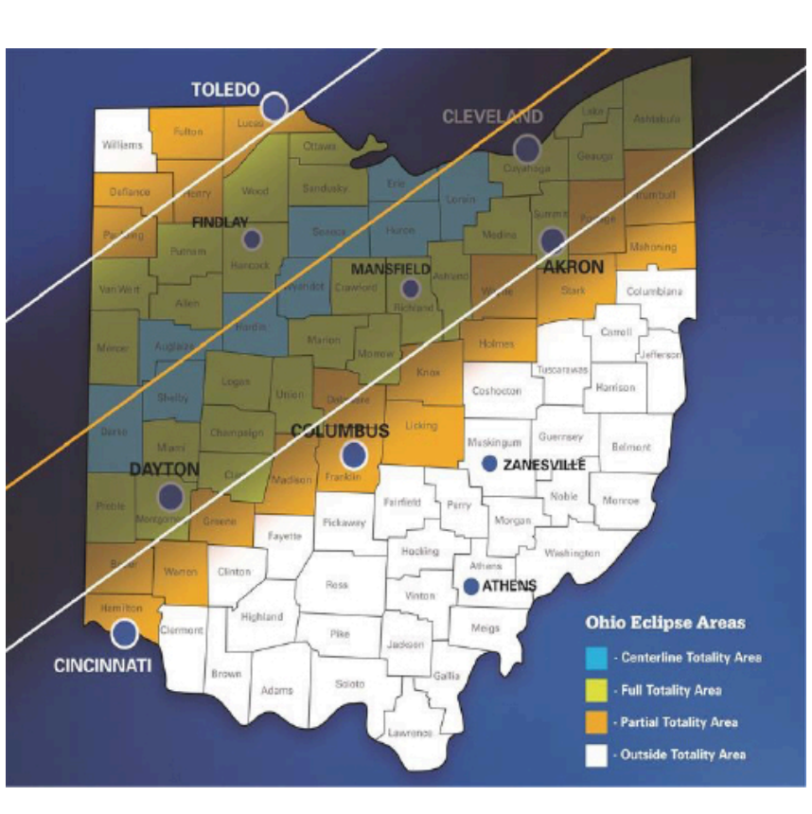
Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

CCAO, Ohio EMA to host solar eclipse webinar on January 17

On Wednesday, January 17, CCAO will be hosting a webinar with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency regarding what counties should know and how they can prepare for the total solar eclipse that will occur later this year.



On Monday, April 8, 2024, people within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse, an extremely rare event which will draw large numbers of visitors to Ohio. Areas outside the band will experience a partial eclipse. Christen Swayer-Cunningham is the Planning Section Supervisor at the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, ODPS and has been with Ohio EMA for four years and prior to this role worked as an Exercise Coordinator in the Planning Training and Exercise Branch and a Disaster Services Consultant in the Disaster Recovery Branch.

You can register here for the webinar. If you are unable to register with the link above, please contact Nedra Benson, CCAO administrative professional, at nbenson@ccao.org or call 614-221-5627, and provide her with your email address.

USDOT offering $1.5 billion in grants for transportation projects

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) recently announced $1.5 billion in funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. These grants have previously been known as TIGER and BUILD grants.

In the FY 2023 round of RAISE grants, Ohio communities received four grants totaling $30.47 million:

- City of Toledo: $20 million
- City of Kent: $5.25 million
- Western Reserve Transit Authority: $2.94 million
- City of Cincinnati: $2.28 million

In the new round of RAISE grants counties are eligible to apply directly to USDOT for grants. Multiple jurisdictions may submit joint applications, provided a lead entity is identified.

Projects are broken into two categories:

- **Capital Projects**
  - Maximum award available for a single project is $25 million, with the awards being no less than $5 million if located in an urban area or $1 million if located in a rural area.
- **Planning Projects**
  - Maximum award available for a single project is $25 million. There is no award minimum.

No single state may receive more than $225 million. The grants are competitive, and states are not guaranteed a certain amount. USDOT encourages applicants to consider how their projects will address climate change, improve racial equity, and/or remove barriers to opportunity. Applications that address these factors will be more competitive.

CCAO encourages counties to work with your local transit authorities, your municipalities and townships, and your neighboring counties to bring these federal funds to Ohio communities.

Please visit NACo's summary of the program and the official Notice of Funding Opportunity for more information. Applications are due by February 28 and must be submitted through Grants.gov.

Ohio Homeland Security hosting inaugural Counterterrorism Conference January 17-20

From January 17 - 20, the Ohio Homeland Security agency within the Department of Public Safety is holding a counterterrorism conference on the Ohio Health Administrative campus of Riverside Hospital. The conference is being co-hosted with the FBI and Franklin County Emergency Management & Homeland Security.

The conference is split into two parts: the first two days (Wednesday and Thursday) are open to all public safety personnel and government partners with registration costing $100 per individual. The two days will include case studies of the recent mass shootings in Buffalo and Las Vegas as well as briefings from Secret Service and ATF representatives.

The second two days (Friday and Saturday) are open only to law enforcement and fire/EMS personnel. Registration for these days is $110 per individual and include two courses, one on behavior pattern recognition and the other on domestic terrorism and hate group investigations. Eight continuing professional training credits are available for each course.

You can register for the event and access the full agenda here.

NACo to host behavioral health continuum of care webinar on January 22

On Monday, January 22, NACo will be hosting a webinar with Falcon, a behavioral health consulting and management firm. The webinar will focus on how counties can assess their systems of care and take steps to improve vulnerabilities and strengthen the continuum of care in their communities.

Registration is free and open to non-NACo members. You can learn more about the webinar and register for it here.

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

Seneca County EMS to expand in the new year

13ABC.com, January 4, 2024

As the Seneca County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) District continues to expand, Seneca County Commissioners say it will open the door for faster response times throughout the county.

The all-volunteer fire department in the village of Green Springs, in the northern tip of Seneca County only has two volunteer EMS firefighters on hand.

"More unified being under Seneca County, since we are in Seneca County, we enjoy having them here, we work together with them very well," Green Springs Fire Chief Greg Lowe said about having the two full-time Seneca County EMS employees housed at his fire station.

That unity was the goal of Seneca County Commissioner Tony Paradiso when he made a push for a levy request, which voters passed, to strengthen the EMS throughout the county that has over 50,000 residents. Voters passed a levy that will generate $1.6 million annually for the EMS district.

"And those dollars, coupled with commissioner dollars formed Seneca County EMS," Paradiso said.

Now that Green Springs has joined, commissioner Paradiso said that brings together six villages and 11 townships, all under one EMS district, that includes 16 full-time employees, along with volunteers.

Northeast District

Cuyahoga County to fund refugee farmers market in Ohio City

Cleveland.com, January 2, 2024

A new farmer's market in Ohio City is one step closer to opening, thanks to funding from Cuyahoga County.

Tuesday, Cuyahoga County Board of Control approved a $150,000 grant to Re:Source Cleveland – formerly known as The Refugee Response -- to help finance construction for a retail space and commercial kitchen at Ohio City Farm on West 24th Street. The grant is funded by American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

The market portion would include 13 vendors, with eight of those selling fresh produce and five selling prepared food. For example, the urban farm would function as a drop-off spot for "culturally important" foods for refugees while they await federal benefits that help them access federal food programs.

While the market and services are focused on refugees, it is not exclusively for them, Ohio City Farm and Re:Source director Patrick Kearns said in an email.

The market would be near the West Side Market, a city-owned facility on W. 25th Street, where about 100 vendors sell meat, seafood, produce and other goods to the public. However, Ohio City Farm's mission is different. The urban farm primarily seeks to help area refugees by employing them and connecting them with services. Because of the different services and facilities, Kearns said he doesn't anticipate any competition with the West Side Market.

Central District

County commissioners outline 2024 goals as they reorganize for the new year

Mansfield News Journal, January 4, 2024

The Richland County commissioners say their goals for 2024 include continued economic development — particularly in the Bellville area and at the former Westinghouse site in Mansfield — and continued financial stability into the future. The board expressed their thoughts for the new year Tuesday as they held their annual organizational session, electing Darrell Banks as chairman and Tony Vero as vice chairman.

Banks said his major goal is to continue upgrading the courthouse including completing the new Clerk of Courts office on the L2 level, remodeling the clerk's current space into a courtroom and other building upgrades that will make it a better place to work and do business. He also said it is important to continue work started at the end of 2023 on long-range financial planning to maintain the county's financial assets.

In line with being a good steward of taxpayer dollars, Commissioner Cliff Mears said the board has some discussions upcoming about department wage studies and compensation packages for county employees. "We need to take a good look at those numbers considering the current economic environment we're all in, which I think under all accounts is unprecedented," he said. "We want to do the right thing."

Mears also agreed with Banks on capital expenditures, noting that there are there are "a lot of things that we have let go for a long time." He said one of the projects is to enhance the image of the county with signage, pointing out it makes a "big difference."

Southwest District

Hamilton County leaders hope to learn soon if youth sports complex is feasible

Cincinnati Enquirer, January 3, 2024

Hamilton County Board of Commissioners President Alicia Reece in her State of the County address in January 2023 announced the creation of a sports tourism facility committee to look at developing a large youth sports complex, one capable of hosting major tournaments for the Cincinnati region's young athletes.

"The amateur sports is the area I think that we're missing that opportunity," Reece said in a board of commissioners meeting in March 2022.

The county still doesn't know what facility could be built in the region, where and who would build it. Reece said she hopes to get these answers in 2024 when a study is finished by Utah-based firm Victus Advisors. The study started in September when the county contracted with Victus for $60,000. Victus conducted an online survey of residents about local sports in December. The firm interviewed 30 local and national youth sports leagues, groups, municipalities and economic development agencies.

Victus will present a study in January or February that will recommend potential locations for a sports facility, how big and expensive it should be, what it should offer and other details, Reece said. Then it's up to the commissioners on how to proceed. The commissioners budgeted an additional $100,000 for 2024 toward this project. Exactly how that money would be spent, if at all, is to be determined.

Southeast District

Muskingum County commissioners plan informational sessions on zoning

Times Recorder, January 5, 2024

The Muskingum County commissioners will have informational sessions regarding potential adoption of a zoning code in the county's northwest townships. The sessions are being offered in partnership with the Muskingum County Planning Commission and the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority.

Meetings will be Tuesday at Frazeysburg Elementary School, 120 E. Third St., Frazeysburg; Thursday in the auditorium of West Muskingum High School, 150 Kimes Road; and Jan. 29 at Nashport Elementary School, 3775 Creamery Road, Nashport. All start at 6 p.m. and will cover the same information.

At each meeting, an online platform will be used to gather thoughts and comments from those in attendance. This will require attendees to use their cell phone's internet browser. Paper copies will be available for those who do not want to participate in the online activity.

The sessions are to present an introduction to zoning, solicit public input and to answer questions about zoning, the review process and other similar topics. The county wants to hear residents' thoughts on pursuing common sense county zoning regulations particularly in Jackson, Cass, Jefferson, Licking, Muskingum, Hopewell and Falls townships.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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JANUARY 11
CCAO Tax and Finance Committee Meeting

JANUARY 15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

JANUARY 17
CCAO Webinar: Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024: Community Collaboration Efforts

JANUARY 19
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

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Fulton County

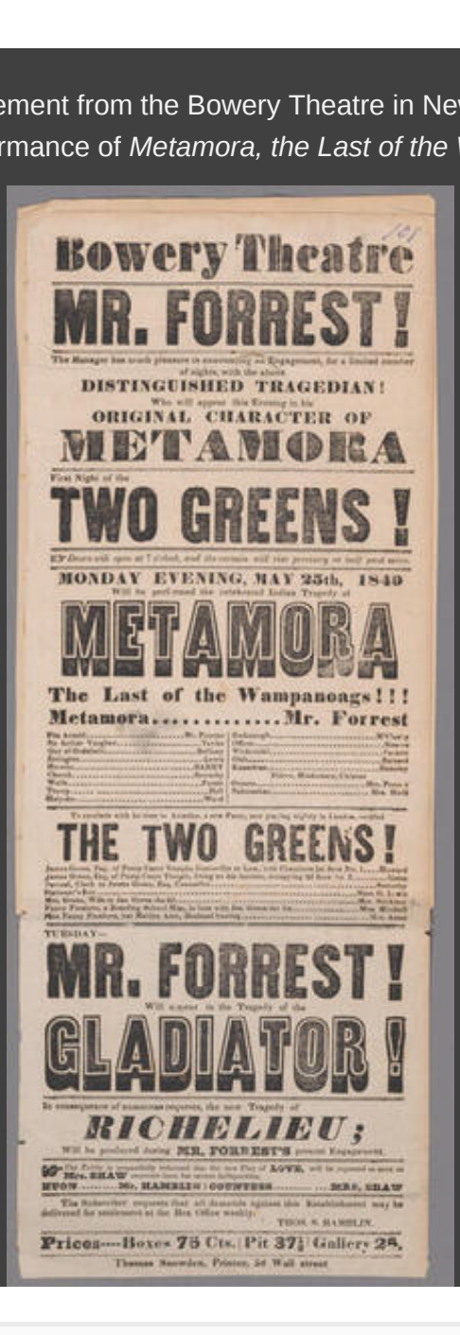
The Fulton County village of Metamora drew its name from a unique moment in early American popular culture.

In the 1820s, a traveling actor named Edwin Forrest, who spent time living with Choctaw Indians in Missouri, commissioned a contest for writers to craft "the best tragedy, in five acts, in which the hero, or principal character, shall be an aboriginal of this country."

The resulting stage production was a play written by John Augustus Stone entitled *Metamora, Last of the Wampanaogs*, a fictionalized account of the end of King Phillip's War (fought 1675-1676). The play was a commercial success and was produced regularly for sixty years.

The play's popularity led to communities in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and, of course, Ohio, using the Metamora name.

A broadsheet advertisement from the Bowery Theatre in New York City advertising an 1840 performance of *Metamora, the Last of the Wampanoags*.



Bowery Theatre

MR. FORREST!

DISTINGUISHED TRAGEDIAN!

ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF

METAMORA

TWO GREENS!

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 25th, 1840

METAMORA

The Last of the Wampanoags!!!

Metamora............Mr. Forrest

THE TWO GREENS!

TUESDAY—

MR. FORREST!

GLADIATOR!

RICHELIEU;

Prices---Boxes 75 Cts.| Pit 37½| Gallery 25.

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