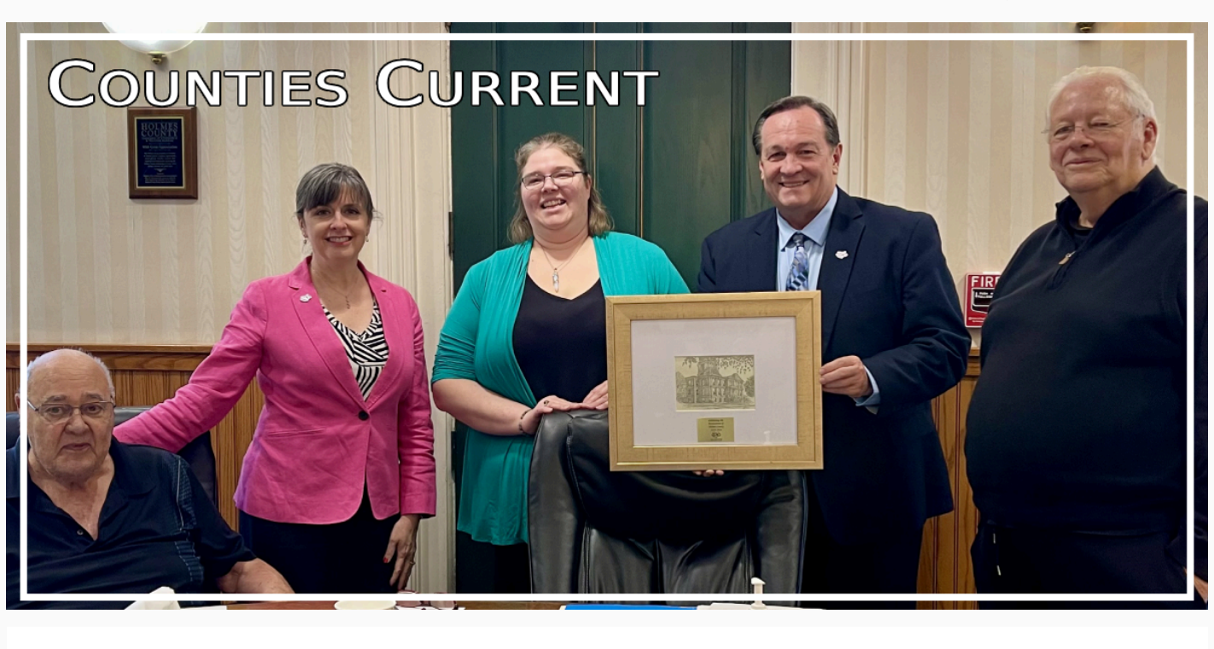

May 20, 2024

Holmes County Commissioners Ray Eyler, Dave Hall & Joe Miller along with Melissa Patrick, Bicentennial Committee Chair, received from CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler a Commemorative Plaque and Drawing of the Holmes County Courthouse in celebration of the County's formation 200 years ago!

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Job Postings

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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CCAO Summer Symposium in Hocking County registration to open TOMORROW!

On August 21-23 (Wednesday to Friday), CCAO will host its annual Summer Symposium at the Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center in Hocking County!

Registration will open tomorrow, May 22! Registration info will be distributed through CCAO's e-bulletin system and will be posted on CCAO.org. We hope to see you in Hocking Hills in August!

Governor awards $2.1 million to for drug task forces

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine awarded $2.1 million in grants through the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund to 35 drug task forces. The funds will be used to help local authorities identify high-level traffickers, dismantle trafficking organizations, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics.

The following counties received funding via the awards (all sheriff's offices unless otherwise noted):

- Ashtabula County: $140,000
- Brown County: $25,795
- Butler County: $30,000
- Clermont County: $190,000
- Columbiana County: $135,000
- Defiance County: $15,000
- Fairfield County: $80,000
- Greene County: $10,000
- Jefferson County Prosecutor: $46,605
- Lake County Narcotics Agency: $65,000
- Lawrence County Prosecutor: $57,000
- Licking County: $10,000
- Lorain County: $120,000
- Mahoning County: $10,000
- Medina County Drug Task Force: $10,000
- Montgomery County: $10,000
- Ottawa County Prosecutor: $75,000
- Portage County: $37,000
- Ross County: $75,000
- Sandusky County Drug Task Force: $45,000
- Stark County: $10,000
- Summit County: $120,000
- Trumbull County: $50,000
- Greater Warren County Drug Task Force: $10,000
- Washington County: $95,000
- Medway Drug Enforcement Agency (Wayne County): $143,000

CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
COUNTY CLASSIC

Join CCAO for an afternoon of golf for a good cause!

County Classic Golf Outing
Safari Golf Club

4853 Powell Rd, Powell, OH 43065

July 19th, 2024
Lunch served/registration at 11:30am
Shotgun start at 1:00pm

In support of the CCAO Research and
Education Foundation Scholarship Fund.

Helping develop the next generation of County Government.

Scan the code to sign up, or visit birdease.com/countyclassic

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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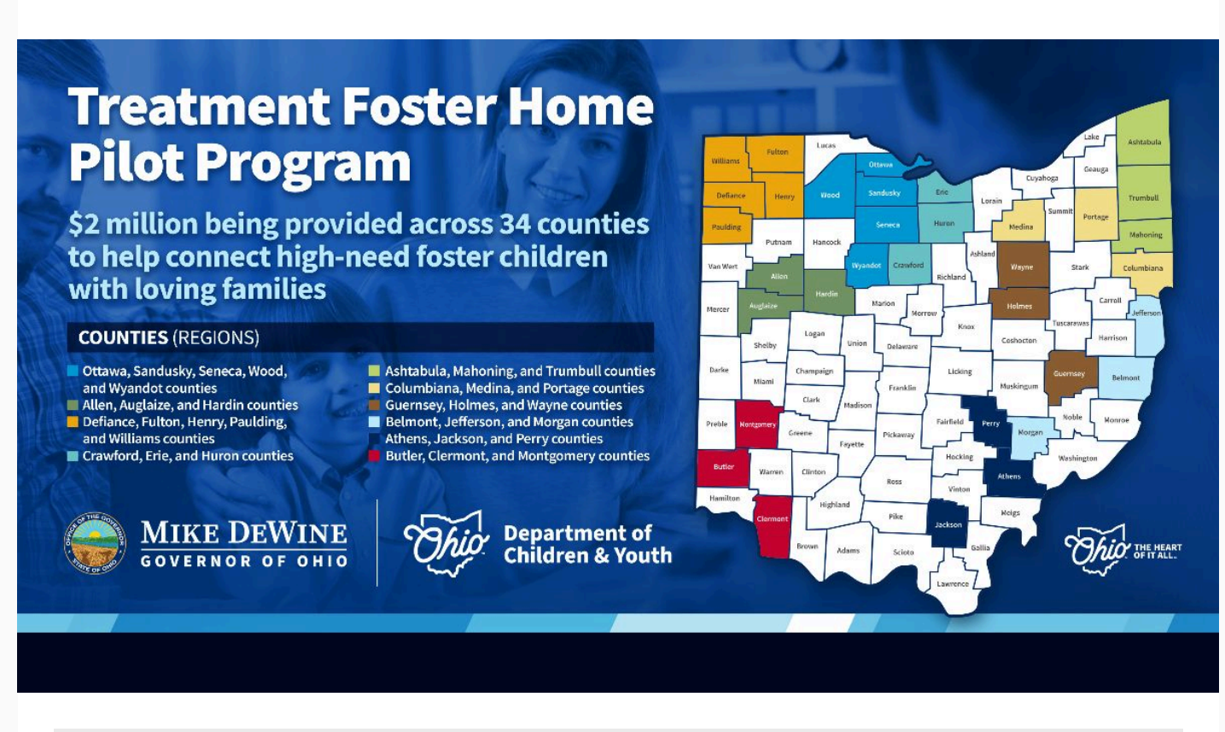
Governor, DCY Director announce expansion of high-need foster care placement program

On Friday, Governor DeWine and Director of the Department of Children and Youth Kara Wente announced the state was awarding more than $2 million to expand a pilot program that had successfully support children with complex needs. The Treatment Foster Home Pilot Program connects foster children with significant behavioral health challenges with foster families who are equipped to support the children in their homes.

The program has successfully been piloted in the Northwest Treatment Foster Care Partnership (a collaboration between the public children services agencies (PCSAs) of Sandusky, Seneca, Ottawa, and Wyandot counties) and will now be rolled out to an additional 30 counties across ten partnerships. The program pools resources from multiple PCSAs to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Director Wente noted that the initial plan for the expansion was to add 15 new PCSAs, but interest was strong enough that the state doubled its commitment and added 30 new counties.


Treatment Foster Home Pilot Program
$2 million being provided across 34 counties to help connect high-need foster children with loving families
COUNTIES (REGIONS)
Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, and Wyandot counties
Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin counties
Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams counties
Crawford, Erie, and Huron counties
Ashtabula, Mahoning, and Trumbull counties
Columbiana, Medina, and Portage counties
Guernsey, Holmes, and Wayne counties
Belmont, Jefferson, and Morgan counties
Athens, Jackson, and Perry counties
Butler, Clermont, and Montgomery counties
MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO
Ohio Department of Children & Youth
Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL.

BroadbandOhio BEAD Challenge Process opens May 28

BroadbandOhio is pleased to announce that the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I has been approved by NTIA!

Following this approval, BroadbandOhio will soon be conducting its BEAD Challenge Process. This is our final chance to have the most accurate map to get broadband to every Ohioan.

The key dates for the Challenge Process will be as follows:

- **The Challenge Phase will take place starting Tuesday, May 28, 2024,** and will last for 21 days until Monday, June 17, 2024. The rebuttal phase is expected to begin July 1 and will also last for 21 days.
- **BroadbandOhio will host a technical assistance webinar on Wednesday, May 22, 2024,** to provide additional guidance on accessing and using the Ohio Challenge Portal through which the Challenge Process will be conducted. A link to register for the webinar will be sent out on a later date.

If you are a member of local government, a service provider, or represent a community anchor institution, you are eligible to participate in the BEAD Challenge Process. To prepare for launch, we recommend that you complete the following steps, if you have not already done so:

- If you are an eligible challenger who wishes to participate, register for access to Ohio's Challenge Portal at this link before May 28, 2024.

- If you are concerned about internet speed in certain areas, encourage residents of those areas to take speed tests at this link on our website. We've attached a flyer that provides instructions on how to do so, which we invite you to share.

For additional information on eligibility, how to register for participation in Ohio's BEAD Challenge Process, and how to access and use Ohio's Challenge Portal, please visit the BroadbandOhio Challenge Process Fact Sheet, FAQs, and Guidebook at this link.

For questions, please reach out to bbohchallenge@development.ohio.gov

Attorney General Opinion regarding compost zoning released

Last week, Attorney General Dave Yost released OAG 2024-004, which responds to a request from the Logan County Prosecutor concerning whether compositing facilities are "agriculture" under R.C. 519.01 and thereby exempt from township zoning authority in R.C. 519.21. While the request (and opinion) deal only with the township zoning language in Chapter 519, the definitions in the chapter generally align with those in Chapter 303, the county zoning chapter, so the opinion may still serve as a guide for counties.

The OAG finds that whether an individual composting facility is "agriculture" is a question of fact to be determined by the township, not one that can be broadly decided by an Attorney General Opinion. If the township determines that an individual facility is non-agriculture, it can only regulate it via zoning if the township zoning regulations include compositing (or solid waste facilities) as a permitted conditional use. Finally, if there is a dispute concerning whether the township zoning resolution(s) apply to a compositing facility, the township may go through the existing process in R.C. 519.23 and 519.24.

Finally, the request also asked what permissions the township may have if the Ohio EPA issues a permit for a compositing facility when the property owner does not have a zoning (or conditional use) permit. The Attorney General finds that facilities must still comply with township zoning regulations if it receives an OEPA permit, unless it is considered "agriculture" by the county.

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.

OEPA to host service line webinar on May 22

On Wednesday, May 22, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar regarding service line inventory and updates to lead and copper rules. The webinar will walk attendees through the Ohio EPA Service Line Inventory template, proposed lead and copper rule improvements, as well as upcoming funding opportunities regarding service lines.

You can register for the webinar here.

State grant round-up

CCAO posts grant opportunities on its Grants and Funding Opportunities page. Below a few current state grant opportunities are highlighted.

Nature Works Grant Program

- **Eligibility**: Local Governments
- **Purpose**: To provide reimbursement assistance to local governments for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of recreational areas.
- **Funding Available**: Up to $150,000 per county
- **Deadline**: June 1

Wetland Grant Program

- **Eligibility**: Local Governments in NW Ohio
- **Purpose**: To provide reimbursement for natural-infrastructure projects focused on nutrient reduction and water quality improvement.
- **Funding Available**: $10 million available; Minimum award $50,000
- **Deadline**: June 7

Benefits Bridge Employer Pilot Program

- **Eligibility**: Employers ***(NON-COUNTY)***
- **Purpose**: To provide funding to employers to offer training programs to participating employees who are recipients of public assistance programs to encourage the employees to take advantage of training programs.
- **Funding Available**: Up to $5,000 per enrolled employee, no more than $100,000 per employers
- **Deadline**: June 30

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, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Van Wert County wants out of insurance consortium

Delphos Hearld, May 6, 2024

Van Wert County Commissioners are looking to save the county thousands of dollars by switching from the Midwest Pool Risk Management Agency (MPRMA) to the County Risk Sharing Authority (CORSA).

"Our first quarter premium (with MPRMA) was kind of a whopper compared to what we'd seen in the past," said Thad Lichtensteiger, Van Wert County Commissioner.

That encouraged them to look at other options.

CORSA has more than 70 counties where the risk is shared. MPRMA risk is shared among five counties: Hancock, Mercer, Shelby, Auglaize, and Van Wert counties.

Van Wert County Commissioners are enticed to jump ship for a liability and risk management insurance plan that saves them around $100,000 a year.

"It was a great bid with numbers too big to ignore," Lichtensteiger said.

Northeast District

Amateur radio club seeks Trumbull ARP funds

The Vindicator, May 15, 2024

An amateur radio enthusiast asked Trumbull County Commissioner Mauro Cantalamessa to consider using a portion of the county's remaining American Rescue Plan funds to help the organization pay for a truck trailer to carry radio equipment during times of emergency and two radio repeaters.

"We are asking for $5,000 to pay for a trailer and another $1,000 for radio repeaters," Ronald J. Leckfor, vice president of the Amateur Radio Association, said. "Compared to the ARP money given for ambulances and other equipment, our ask is very modest."

Commissioners, however, are close to having spent all of the ARP funds — more than $38 million — the county received. The county has less than $1 million left to provide to the community, if all of the current projects expected to be reviewed are allocated money.

Leckfor said the two repeaters are being used, in part, with the National Weather Service SkyWarn Communications, during times of emergency, such as severe weather, large fires, flooding, high wind, snow and icing events which are all extreme temperature situations.

Central District

Delaware County to host disaster relief meeting for March 14 tornado victims

WOSU Public Media, May 17, 2024

Delaware County residents and business owners affected by the March 14 tornadoes that moved through the area can learn about disaster relief assistance available to them.

Representatives from federal, state and local emergency management agencies will speak at the Delaware County Commissioners meeting scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Monday.

The meeting will be on the second floor of the Historic Courthouse, located at 91 N. Sandusky St.

Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Delaware County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the U.S. Small Business Administration and the village of Galena plan to be there.

Much of the tornado damage was in Galena and Berlin and Berkshire townships east of the city of Delaware, said Scott Stewart, Deputy Director of Delaware County Emergency Management. He said two tornadoes touched down in the county and at least 200 buildings were damaged or destroyed.

FEMA spokesman Gerard Hammink said those attending the meeting will get a good picture on assistance they can receive.

Southwest District

Commissioners discuss sewer projects

Pike County News Watchman, May 17, 2024

The Pike County Commissioners met with Kris Ruggles from Stand Associates who has been working with Pike County in the water and sewer projects.

The first project was the replacing of an air release valve, which the commissioners have had designed for almost a year and half and looks like a solution has been reached of how to replace the valves on Department of Energy (DOE) property.

"We (Pike County) finally got someone else to say 'We'll take care of the ones on DOE property.' So that is behind us, and I hope that happens at some point," Ruggles said.

Ruggles explained that there is some question of whose property a couple of the valves are on, but that sewer technician Scott Bryant was checking on that and would find that out.

"As soon as he figures where the last one is, you're going to have two to four (valves) to bid out," Ruggles said.

Southeast District

Council of governments formed for recycling; Logan planning to join

Logan Daily, May 18, 2024

On Thursday in the conference room of the Athens County Commissioners, the Southeast Ohio Recycling Terminal (SORT) council of governments was formed, a group that could introduce recycling pick-up in Logan in the future.

Lenny Eliason, an Athens County commissioner, was voted chair of the board, while Amesville mayor Gary Gooseman was elected vice-chair. Crissa Cummings, head of the Athens-Hocking Recycling Center (AHRC), whose recycling and trash pick-up services are being absorbed into SORT, was elected secretary treasurer and fiscal officer of the newly-formed council.

The council's founding members are the Athens-Hocking Solid Waste District and the Village of Amesville. Other municipalities looking to join in the near future include the City of Athens and the City of Nelsonville, as well as Logan.

Logan City Councilmember Judie Henniger, head of the streets and alleys committee that is bringing legislation before Logan City Council to join SORT, was present at the meeting. She told The Logan Daily News that city council expects to have first reading on the legislation at their May 28 meeting.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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MAY 27
Memorial Day

MAY 29
CCAO JEDI Committee Meeting

JUNE 14
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE 20
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

JUNE 26
Northwest District Meeting (Hancock County)

JUNE 28
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

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