June 10, 2024

Commissioners from Champaign, Darke, Logan, Mercer, Miami and Shelby counties met on Friday in Miami County to discuss emergency services, the state capital budget, Healthy Aging Grants and more.

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Three counties receive water, building rehabilitation grants

Last week, the Department of Development announced grant awards under the Residential Public Infrastructure Grant Program and the Flexible Grant Program.

Athens, Paulding, and Williams counties each received funding under the programs.

Athens County received $750,000 to replace waterlines and improve storage tanks in the Sunday Creek Valley Water District, Paulding County received $250,000 to rehabilitate three buildings in downtown Antwerp, and Williams County received $250,000 to rehabilitate three buildings in downtown Bryan.

CCAO Summer Symposium: Registration Open!

CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024
TEAMWORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
AUGUST 21-23, 2024
Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center | Logan, Ohio

Join us for the CCAO Summer Symposium 2024, set amidst the serene beauty of Hocking Hills. This year's event promises to deliver relevant and timely sessions, foster valuable relationships across the state, and align with our 2024 President's vision: "Teamwork for a Better Tomorrow, Stronger Counties, Stronger Ohio."

Stay tuned for the Symposium Schedule which will be released in the coming days!

Register

If you haven't attended a CCAO Summer Symposium since its inception in 2022, we invite you to register at a discounted rate. Contact Tim Hoverman at thoverman@ccao.org to see if you qualify and learn how you can save 25% off the registration fee.

Early Bird Registration: $249 (until July 19)

Standard Registration: $295 (after July 19)

Reserve Your Room:

To book your room, call 1-800-282-7275 and mention the CCAO Summer Symposium block or use Block Code #1017E3. A deposit for the first night's room, taxes, and fees is required at the time of reservation. This deposit is fully refundable up to 72 hours prior to arrival. Cancellations made within 72 hours of arrival will incur a no-show fee.

Room Rate: $107 + tax and fees (available until July 19, 2024)

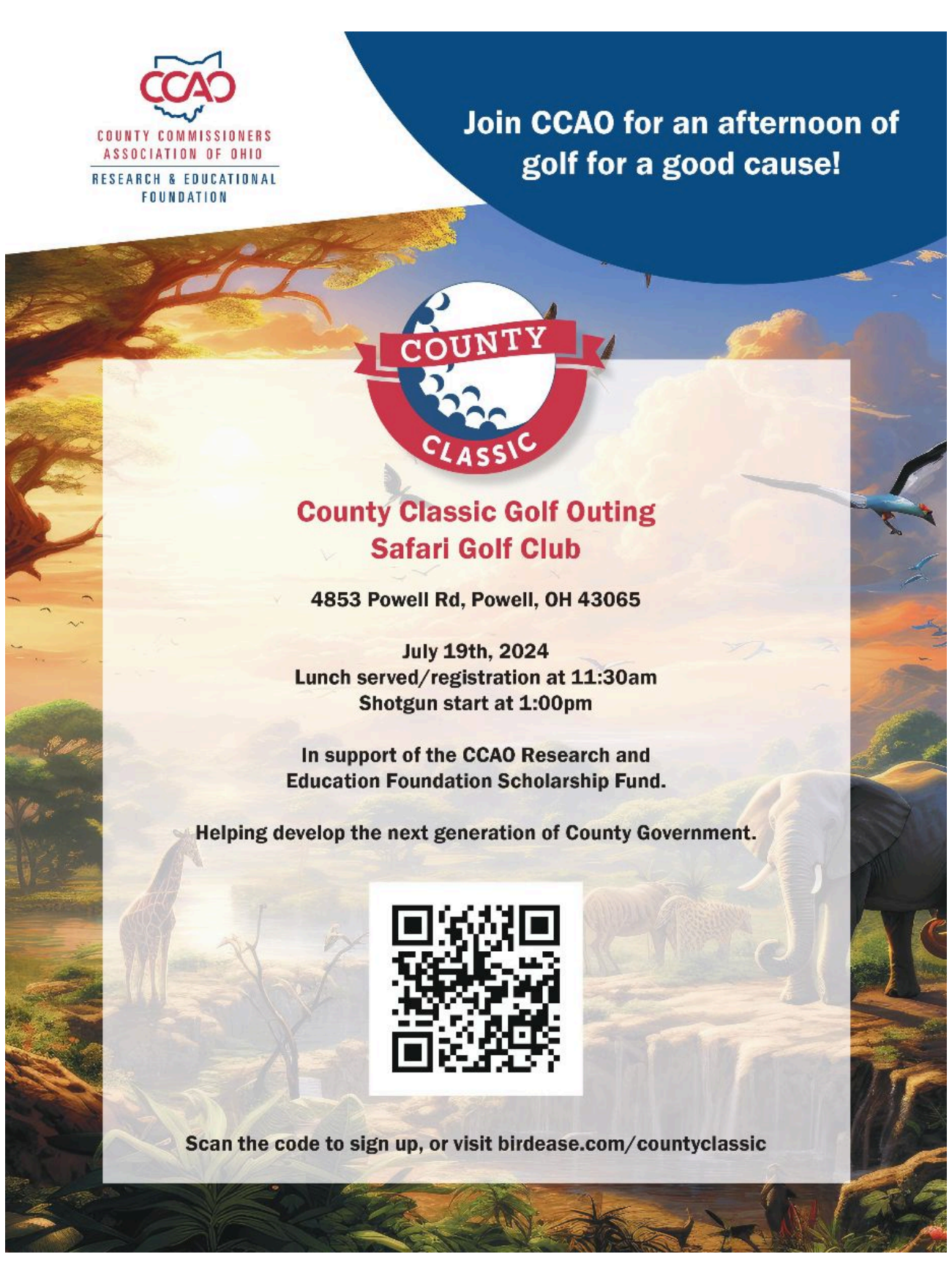
Note: Rooms are limited, so reserve yours today.

We look forward to seeing you in the picturesque "Hills" of Hocking County!

Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center

20020 OH-664

Logan, OH 43138



CCAO
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO
RESEARCH & EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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

COUNTY CLASSIC

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

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STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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State Public Defender drops reimbursement to 78%

Last week, the Ohio Public Defender issued a memo to inform stakeholders in the indigent defense system that the agency will lower the reimbursement rate for the beginning of State Fiscal Year 2025 (beginning on July 1) to 78%.

The memo notes that, through the 11 months of SFY 2024, average monthly submissions have totaled $17.6 million, with three months where the monthly reimbursement submissions have exceeded $18 million.

CCAO has met with OPD to discuss what is driving the increase in monthly submissions and how to best carry out the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Indigent Defense which met earlier this year. The Association will keep membership informed as we learn more.

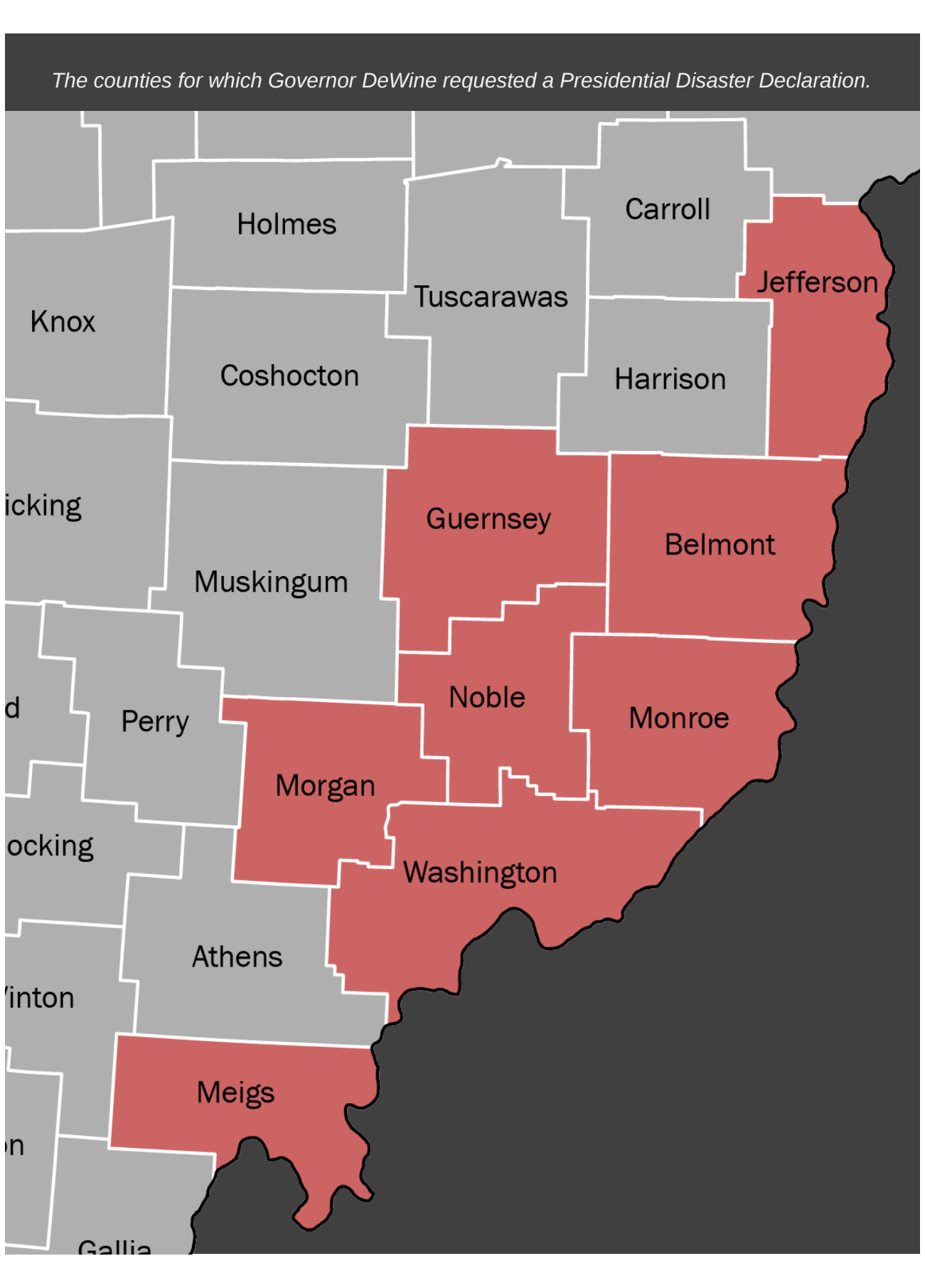
Governor DeWine seeks federal disaster declaration for storm-hit counties

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine formally requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration from President Joe Biden to help support recovery efforts in eight counties impacted by severe storms in early April (see below).

The request was submitted partially due to the state and FEMA reaching different conclusions on the total damage cost. Under federal law, the damage cost threshold for public aid is $21.7 million; FEMA estimated the damage from the April storms to total $17.4 million while the Ohio EMA estimates the cost at $33.8 million.

A Presidential Disaster Declaration would provide grants to state and local governments and certain non-profit organizations for infrastructure repairs and to address the costs associated with debris operations and emergency protective measures.

The counties for which Governor DeWine requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration.



NOTE: BEAD challenge portal temporarily closed

Last Friday, BroadbandOhio discovered an error in the portal to challenge broadband maps and closed the challenge portal until the error is resolved. The portal inadvertently excluded fixed wireless locations instead of cellular fixed wireless.

BroadbandOhio anticipates reopening the challenge process on June 14 (this Friday) and will extend the window through July 5.

If you submitted a challenge prior to the window closing for repair, you do not need to resubmit it.

If you have questions, please visit BroadbandOhio's website or contact bbohchallenge@development.ohio.gov.

Child Support Directors Association rebrands as Child Support Professionals Association

Last week, the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association rebranded itself as the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association (OCSPA). Child support is one of the many human services functions that counties carry out and the newly-renamed OCSPA has been a valuable ally to CCAO on a number of important initiatives.

The following is adapted from OCSPA's press release announcing the change.

In service of its vision to secure the well-being and success of children and families in Ohio, the Ohio CSEA Directors' Association (OCDA) has rebranded as the Ohio Child Support Professionals Association (OCSPA). The association is the unified voice and resource for child support professionals in Ohio and this name is more inclusive of all members across the state.

"We want to better tell the story of our association's impact on the child support program. Our name and brand need to reflect the diversity in roles that our members have across Ohio's counties, as well as the services we provide for them," said OCSPA Executive Director Amy Roehrenbeck. "We don't just support county directors, we also serve administrators, attorneys, hearing officers, supervisors, line staff, and key partners who work every day for Ohio's children."

Staffed by four passionate and dedicated former county employees (three coming from the child support program), OCSPA delivers education, advocacy, and support. In addition to its work at the Statehouse on child support-related legislation, the association will continue to offer a wide range of professional development opportunities, including conferences, training sessions, and networking events. "Our goal is to empower child support professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to excel in their roles and effectively serve Ohio's children," said OCSPA Board President Joyce Bowens.

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.

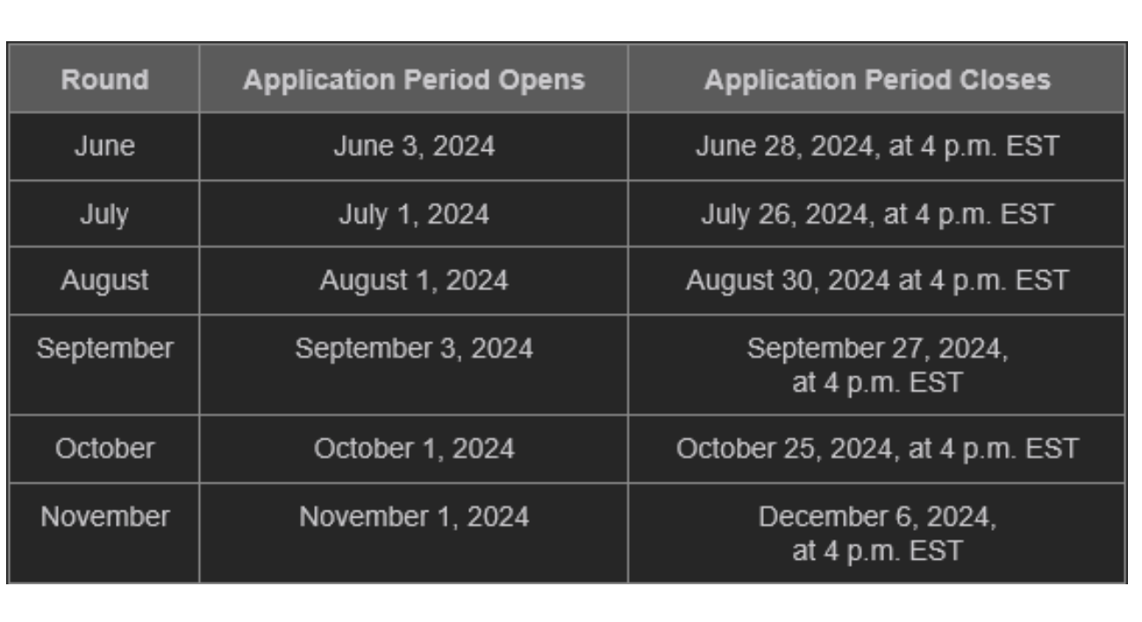
Application window for the Single Family Tax Credit changed to monthly windows

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency has revised the application deadline for the Single Family Tax Credit program to accept applications on a monthly basis.

The window for June opened last Monday (June 3) and will close on June 28 (the final Friday of the month). The table below shows the windows for the months of June through November.

The Single Family Tax Credit program is a public-private partnership that aims to increase the inventory of affordable, single-family housing for Ohio's growing workforce. The program provides $50 million each year for four years to fill the financing gap to develop or rehabilitate housing in Ohio.

You can learn more about the program at its website.



Round	Application Period Opens	Application Period Closes
June	June 3, 2024	June 28, 2024, at 4 p.m. EST
July	July 1, 2024	July 26, 2024, at 4 p.m. EST
August	August 1, 2024	August 30, 2024 at 4 p.m. EST
September	September 3, 2024	September 27, 2024, at 4 p.m. EST
October	October 1, 2024	October 25, 2024, at 4 p.m. EST
November	November 1, 2024	December 6, 2024, at 4 p.m. EST

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Lucas County to begin operating conviction integrity unit

WTOL, June 6, 2024

Lucas County will soon become the fifth county in Ohio with a conviction integrity unit.

On Thursday afternoon, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken confirmed to 11 Investigates that a CIU is in the works and a formal announcement will be made soon, likely next week.

"It'd be foolish to say people in government never make mistakes," Gerken said. "It's OK if you make a mistake and correct them."

Cuyahoga, Franklin, Summit and Hamilton counties are the other counties in Ohio with CIUs.

Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates has been leading the effort and seeking input from members of the community and other regional units. She told 11 Investigates that the unit is "a continuing work in progress" as her office finalizes the structure and guidelines.

In 2019, 11 Investigates produced a 30-minute documentary, "Guilty without Proof," that detailed the story of Wayne Braddy and Karl Willis, who were convicted of a 1998 murder they said they did not commit.

As a result of that investigation, the men were released from prison last March. Following that story, we heard from several other men claiming they had been wrongfully convicted and we have investigated multiple claims, including those of Danny Brown, Arty Richter and Eric Babos.

Northeast District

Commissioners, sheriff address security

Tribune Chronicle, June 5, 2024

Security changes at county building entrances are under review of the sheriff's office and commissioners to better welcome visitors.

Trumbull County commissioners held their weekly workshop Tuesday, during which commissioners Denny Malloy and Mauro Cantalamessa discussed amnesty box conditions with Maj. Tony Villanueva. The conversation between the officials specifically addressed some inconveniences of confiscating the public's items at the doors.

"If we need to come up with a ticket system or something like that, I want to go that route," Board President Denny Malloy said. "I don't think we should be seizing tools off of people just because we have horrible parking here that they have to walk to."

The commissioners mentioned that visitors having their items confiscated while entering county buildings, and in turn losing such items, "is bad for PR."

Villanueva said a "quick discussion to come up with a gameplan" could provide the best course of action moving forward for plans to change the system.

Central District

Tornadoes spotted in Knox and Muskingum counties, damage in Frazeysburg

Columbus Dispatch, June 6, 2024

Weather officials are investigating possible tornadoes that struck parts of Knox and Muskingum counties.

The Muskingum County EMA Director Jeff Jadwin told WHIZ news that several people were hospitalized when a possible tornado struck the village of Frazeysburg, located about an hour east of Columbus. The storms capped a night of watches and warnings across central and western Ohio, including Newark and Buckeye Lake.

The storm struck the community at about 1 a.m. A post on the Frazeyburg police Facebook page said that the "unwarned storm" struck after the expiration of a National Weather Service tornado warning. Some injuries were reported, but the department said none were considered serious.

"Crews are working on clearing roads of debris so AEP can work on downed lines," the department said via its Facebook page. "The main damage path appears to be from around the west village limits to State St., almost directly down 3rd St. Areas to the north and south of 3rd St appear to be largely undamaged, as is the east end of town."

The department said it expects a team from the National Weather Service to visit the city Thursday to assess the damage. The Muskingum County EMA said they won't have more information on the storm until the survey is completed.

Southwest District

Commissioners congratulate retiree, talk land bank, and tout Gould Park

Portsmouth Daily Times, May 31, 2024

The Scioto County commissioners had a mixed bag of business this week. With a retirement, land bank business, and solid weather offering more opportunities for locals to be out and about at local hotspots, the county has been buzzing.

First, the board offered congratulations to Debby Basham on her retirement after 41 years with the Scioto County Soil and Water Conservation District.

"Thanks so much, Debby, for all you've done for the community," said Commissioner Scottie Powell. "We wish you all the best."

Basham started at the district in 1983 and has won several awards for her work and dedication.

"That's a lot of dedication and just loving her work," said Commissioner Cathy Coleman. "We thank her very much."

The commissioners also discussed the land bank grant and projects that must be finished in order to continue qualifying for grants. It includes the demolition of some vacant structures for the safety and health of the community.

"There was another property added to the list and we had to make sure we had our priority list," said Commission Chair Bryan Davis. "We're almost there and there's a couple commercial properties and many residential properties that have gone beyond repair status."

The land bank is aimed at clearing blighted properties and repairing those that can be repaired to maintain the housing market in the county.

The commissioners also affirmed a piece of legislation noting the county's continued lease of Gould Park, which is the newest park in the county. Located near Greenup Dam, it was opened last year and is home to shelterhouses, restrooms, and an accessible playground for children of all abilities.

Powell said he had been at the Franklin Furnace park just last weekend and met a family enjoying their day there.

Southeast District

Court overturns zoning decision on site for new Muskingum County jail

Times Recorder, June 4, 2024

The Muskingum County Common Pleas Court has reversed a decision by the City of Zanesville Board of Zoning Appeals denying an application by the Board of Muskingum County Commissioners for a conditional use permit to construct a new county jail at the former Mosaic Tile plant site in Zanesville, according to a news release from the commissioners.

The jail will be located at 1525 Pershing Road. The current design has 357 beds with an estimated cost of construction of $75 million, although the scope of work is not finalized.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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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

JULY 4
Independent Day - Legal Holiday

JULY 12 - 16
NACo Annual Conference

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