June 24, 2024

Earlier this month, Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis met with (from L to R) Scioto County Sheriff David Thoroughman, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Portsmouth Chief of Police Debby Brewer to discuss a variety of topics, including mental health treatment, law enforcement challenges caused by the opioid epidemic, and funding for children services.

Photo courtesy of Commissioner Bryan Davis

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | County News | Job Postings

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Former Williams County Commissioner Chip Winzeler passes away

Early last week, Howard "Chip" Winzeler, who served as a Williams County Commissioner from 1973 - 1975, passed away at the age of 85.

Chip grew up in Bryan and worked for the Ohio Art Company for most of his professional career. He and his family hosted exchange students through the American Field Service program from New Zealand, Germany, Norway, Paraguay, and the former Yugoslavia.

You can read his full obituary, which includes where the family requested donations to be sent, here.

County and independent fairs receive state grant funds

Last week, the DeWine-Husted Administration announced the awarding of $10 million to support local fair projects. The $10 million was appropriated under the County and Independent Fair Grant Program created in the state operating budget. The purpose of the program is to suppost fairs with improvements ranging from electrical and sanitary systems to ADA compliance, and more.

Each fair recieved an equal distribution of $106,831.54, except for two fairs (Perry County Agricultural Society and Putnam County Agriculture Society) that requested a smaller amount.

County fair season began at the beginning of the month with Paulding County's fair and continues until October 12, when the Fairfield County Fair concludes. A full schedule of county fairs can be found here.

CCAO Summer Symposium: Registration Open!

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."

Register now!

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)

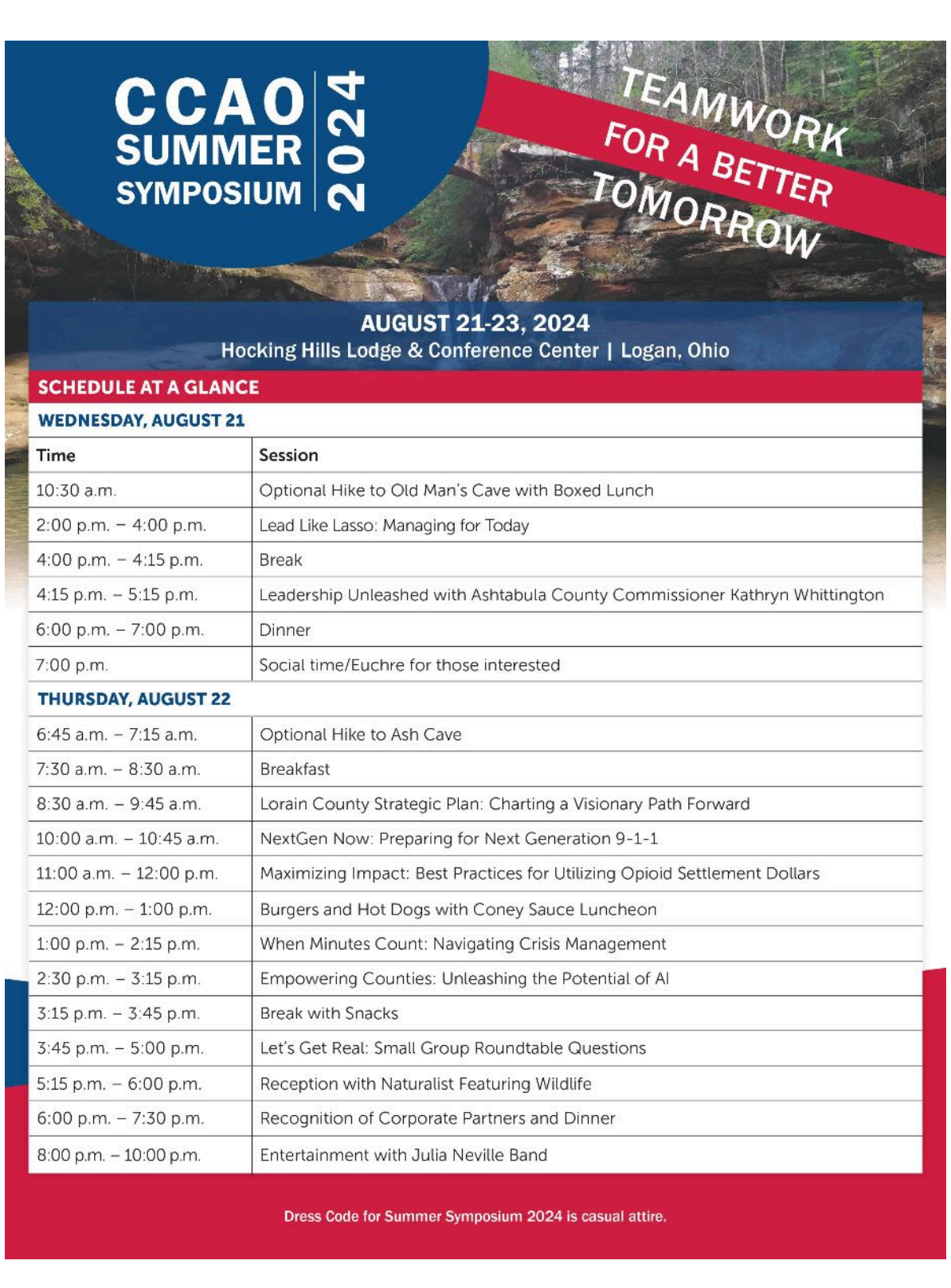
Reserve Your Room:

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.

You can view the current agenda below (click to enlarge)!



CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024

TEAMWORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

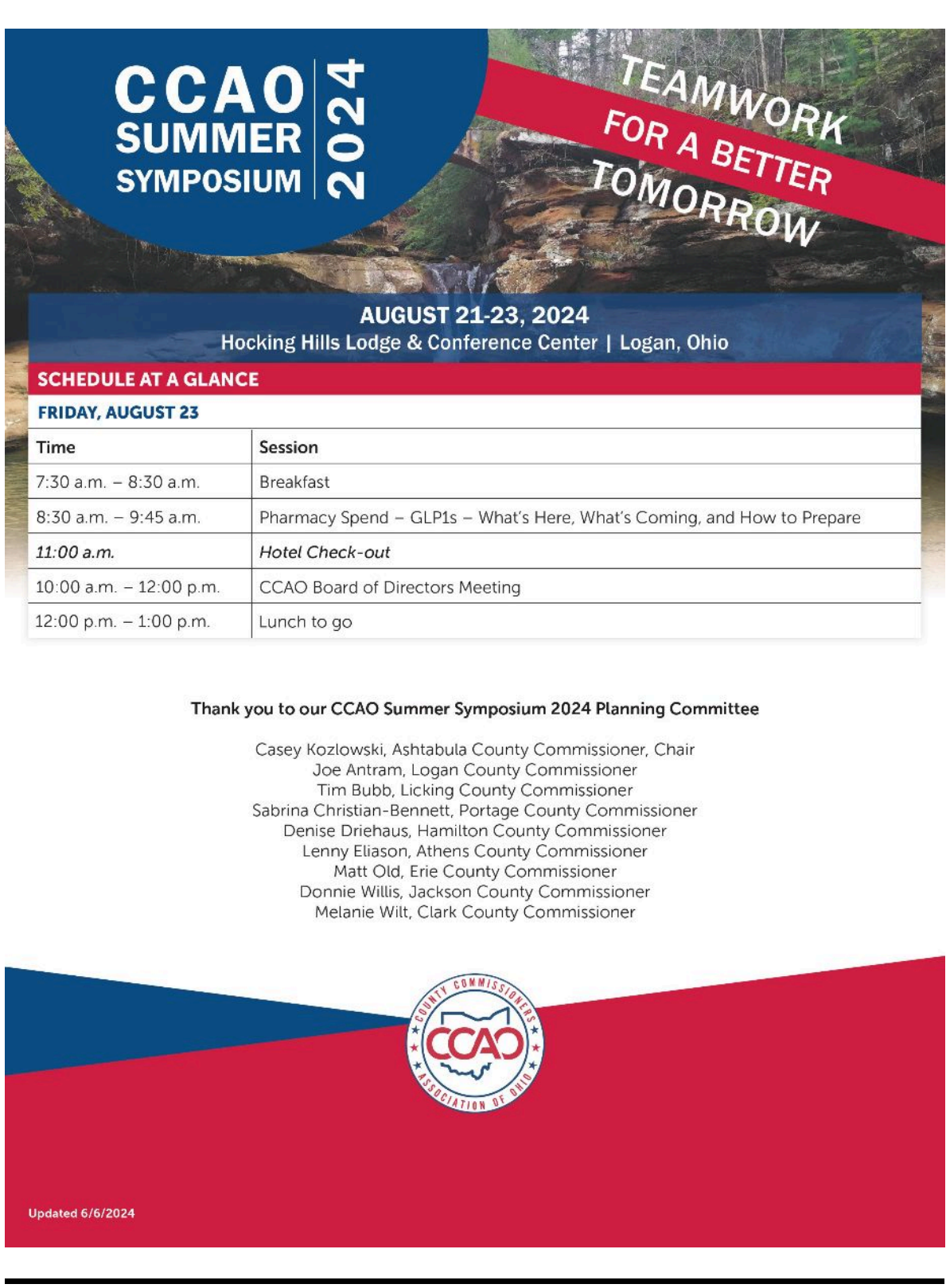
AUGUST 21-23, 2024

Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center | Logan, Ohio

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Time	Session
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21	
10:30 a.m.	Optional Hike to Old Man's Cave with Boxed Lunch
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Lead Like Lasso: Managing for Today
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Break
4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	Leadership Unleashed with Ashtabula County Commissioner Kathryn Whittington
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Social time/Euchre for those interested
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22	
6:45 a.m. – 7:15 a.m.	Optional Hike to Ash Cave
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Lorain County Strategic Plan: Charting a Visionary Path Forward
10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	NextGen Now: Preparing for Next Generation 9-1-1
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Maximizing Impact: Best Practices for Utilizing Opioid Settlement Dollars
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Burgers and Hot Dogs with Coney Sauce Luncheon
1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	When Minutes Count: Navigating Crisis Management
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Empowering Counties: Unleashing the Potential of AI
3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Break with Snacks
3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Let's Get Real: Small Group Roundtable Questions
5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Reception with Naturalist Featuring Wildlife
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Recognition of Corporate Partners and Dinner
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Entertainment with Julia Neville Band

Dress Code for Summer Symposium 2024 is casual attire.



CCAO SUMMER SYMPOSIUM 2024

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SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Time	Session
FRIDAY, AUGUST 23	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Pharmacy Spend – GLP1s – What's Here, What's Coming, and How to Prepare
11:00 a.m.	*Hotel Check-out*
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	CCAO Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch to go

Thank you to our CCAO Summer Symposium 2024 Planning Committee

Casey Kozlowski, Ashtabula County Commissioner, Chair
Joe Antram, Logan County Commissioner
Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner
Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Portage County Commissioner
Denise Driehaus, Hamilton County Commissioner
Lenny Eliason, Athens County Commissioner
Matt Old, Erie County Commissioner
Donnie Willis, Jackson County Commissioner
Melanie Wilt, Clark County Commissioner

Updated 6/6/2024

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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NACo releases Operation Green Light toolkit

In the lead up to Veterans Day, NACo has released the 2024 iteration of the Operation Green Light for Veterans toolkit.

Operation Green Light is an initiative led by NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers to honor our nation's veterans and to raise awareness of the role that counties play in providing vital services to veterans.

Below are photos of county buildings lit in green for 2023's Operation Green Light.

1. Lake County
2. Montgomery County
3. Clermont County
4. Tuscarawas County
5. Cuyahoga County
6. Scioto County
7. Hamilton County

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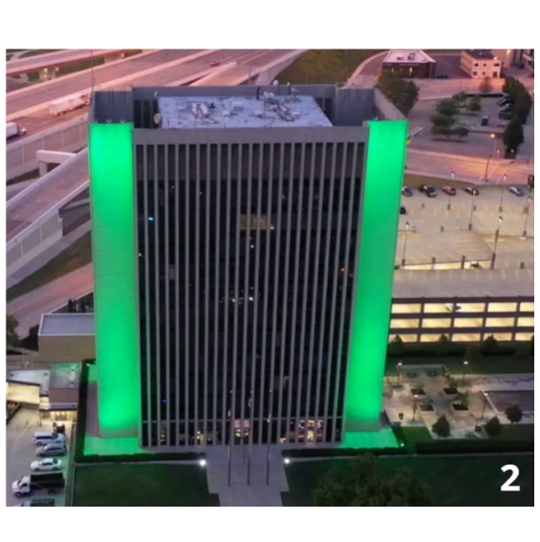
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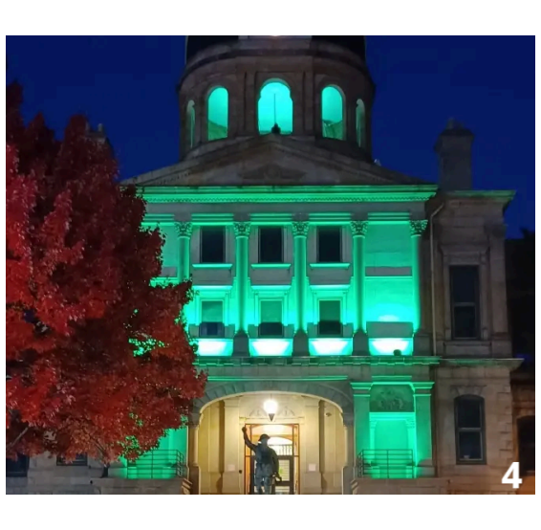
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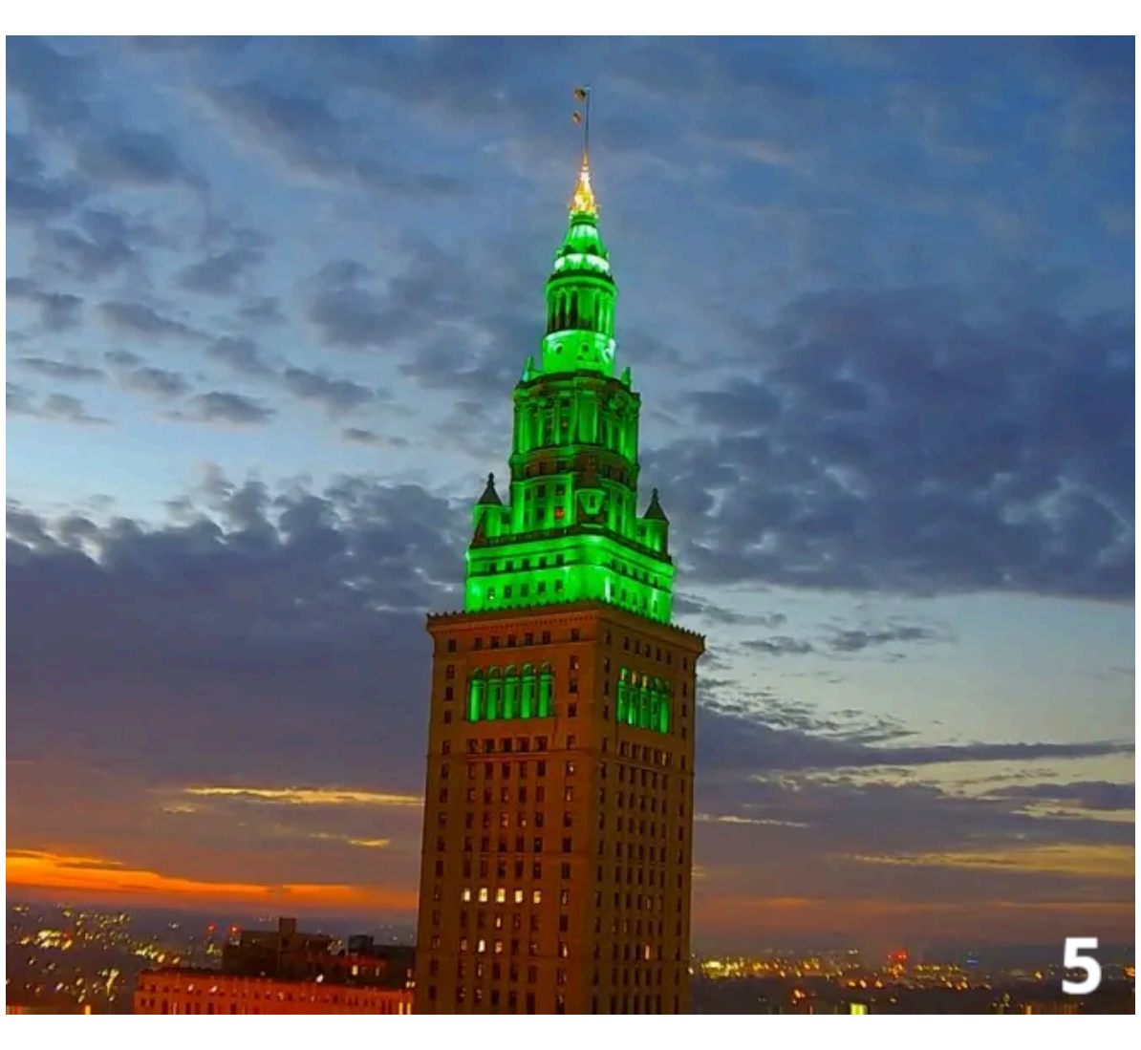
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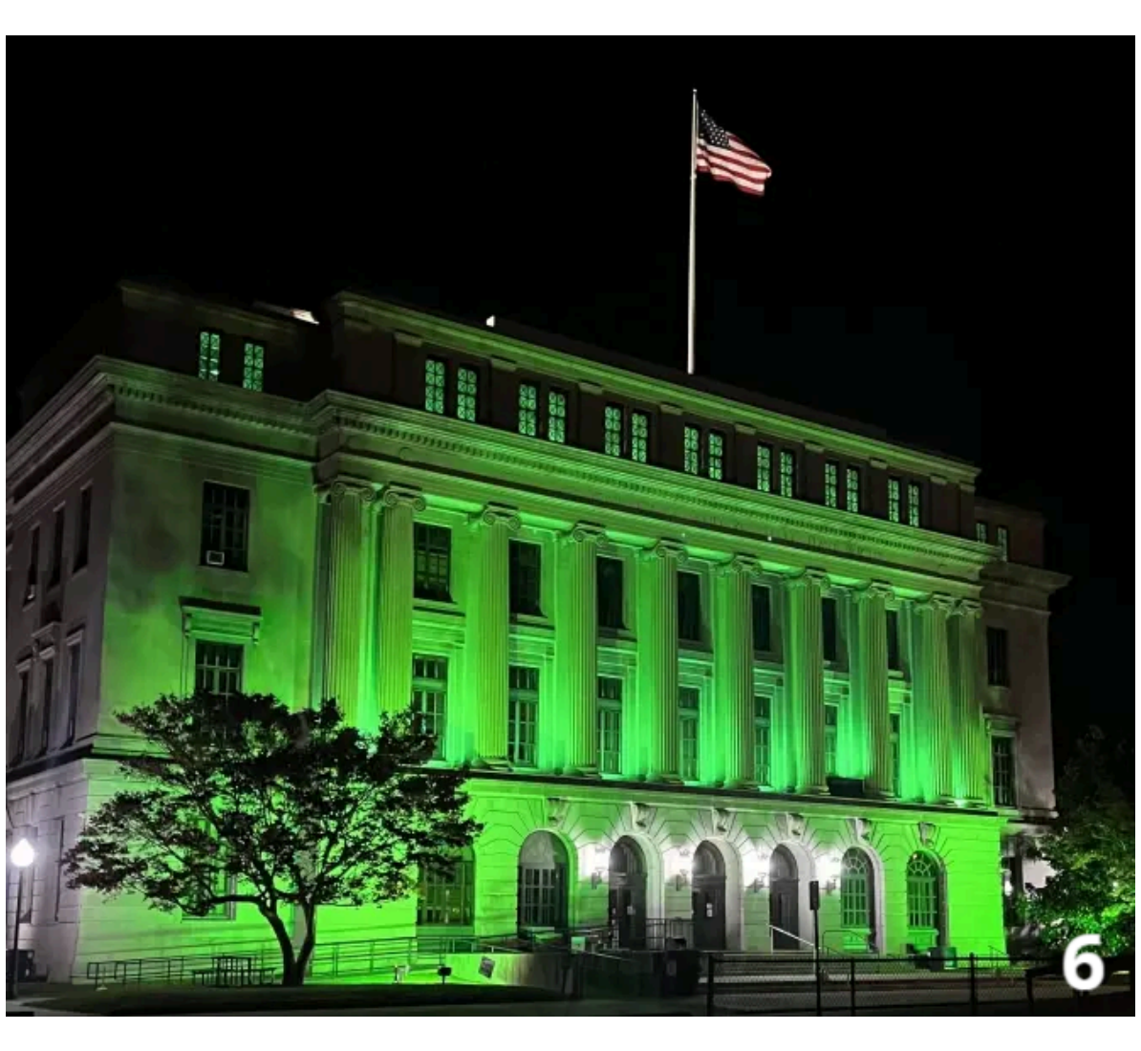
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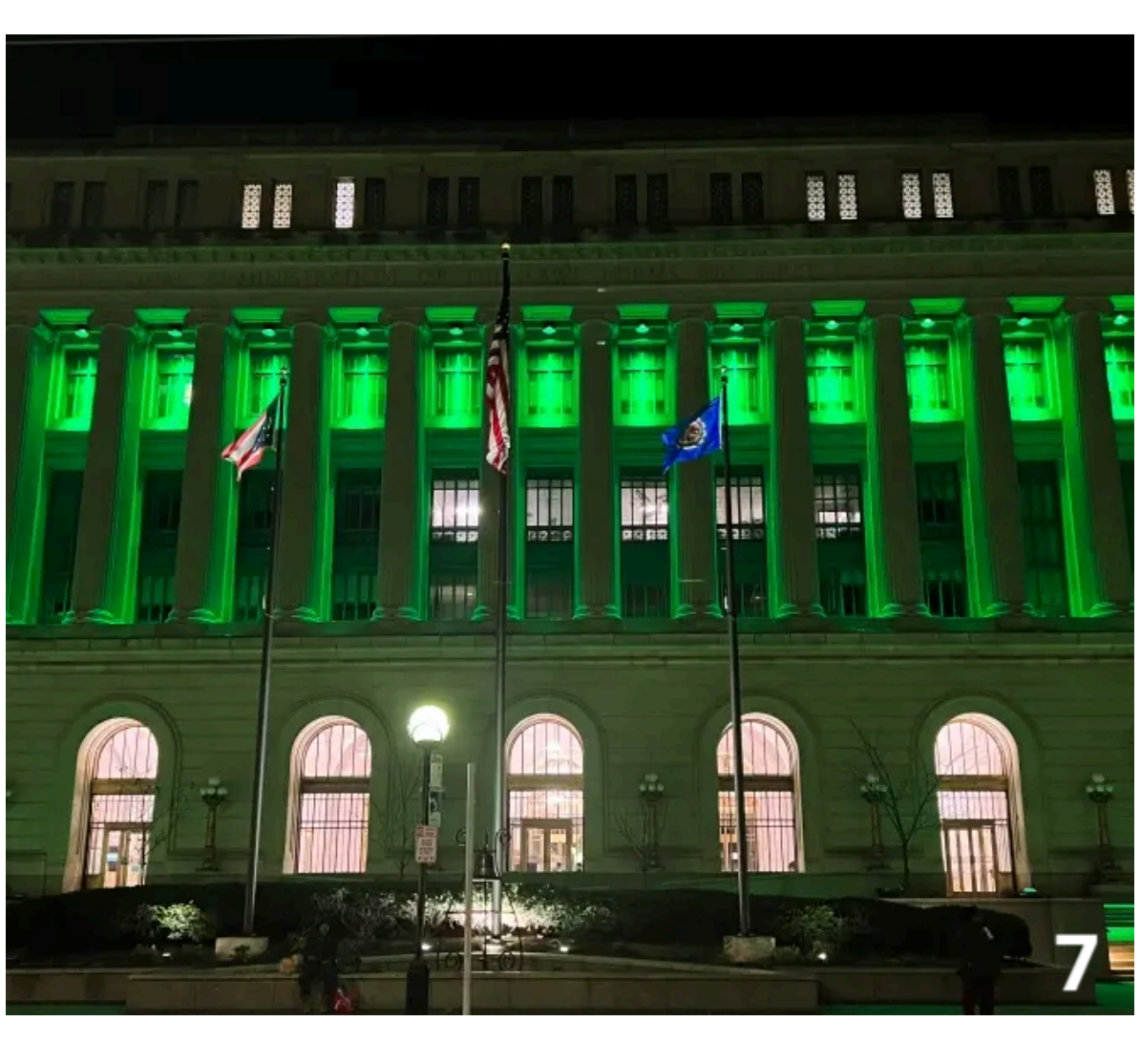
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NACo releases new resourse on ARPA obligation changes

NACo has released a new resource that provides an overview of changes that the US Department of Treasury has made regarding obligation guidance for state and local ARPA funds. The resource, accessible here, provides additional clarification on personnel expenses, reclassifying funds, and subrecipients.

NACo has also been working with Treasury to secure release of guidance regarding the ARPA reporting process for counties that have a population greater than 250,000 and that received more than $10 million in ARPA funds. CCAO will keep members informed when the latter becomes available.

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.

THIS WEEK: CCAO to host housing webinar on Wednesday

On June 26 (this Wednesday), CCAO will host a webinar concerning how counties can help spur housing developments in their communities. The webinar, "The County Role in Housing Development: Finding Opportunities and Overcoming Barriers," will provide an overview of statewide market conditions for housing development and how to build successful public-private partnerships in housing.

Local and state elected officials, community stakeholders, private developers, and employers all are grappling with the state's recognized lack of high quality, workforce-attainable housing options. Ohio has been winning more than its fair share of large and small projects, but Ohio communities are now realizing they need solutions to house the new workers who will fill those hard-earned job creation projects. In some areas, the lack of new housing creates a barrier to economic development.

This webinar will first frame the issue of Ohio's housing market – both positives and negatives – focusing on trends in the construction of new housing units and market conditions in the sale and leasing activity of existing products. We'll then turn our attention to the "How?", "What?", and "Why?" of local communities getting involved in planning, zoning, and other regulatory activities, and fostering housing development transactions to help prime the pump of housing solutions within their markets.

Speakers from the Ohio Realtors Association and Bricker Graydon LLP will discuss tips and tricks of the trade in using successful public-private partnership models to deploy all of the tools at their disposal to solve Ohio's housing shortage.

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

Application available, window to open July for Opportunity Zones

Applications for the latest round of Opportunity Zone tax credits will open on Wednesday, July 10 and last through August 1.

The Opportunity Zone program is intended to spur investment in low-income communities by offering preferential tax treatment to awardees. There are currently 320 Opportunity Zones across the state; 73 counties have at least one Opportunity Zone.

While counties are not an eligibile entity to apply. the opening of the window may be of interest to those in your communities, so CCAO wanted to bring the impending application window opening to your attention.

More information about the program can be found on the Department of Development's website.

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

Paulding County Land Bank Continues Positive Momentum

West Bend News, June 19, 2024

The Paulding County Land Reutilization Committee met in June to share information and receive updates about many completing and some new projects.

Several positive comments have been expressed to the committee in regard to a site recently remediated in the Village of Payne. The property, located just on the south edge of the village along Highway 49 at the Flat Rock Creek bridge, was purchased by the Land Bank committee last winter. The committee was able to contract with Dangler Excavating and had several old semi-trailers, a structure and some other trash removed prior to grading and seeding the lot. The noticeably clean property was then sold to the commercial building owner next door.

Paulding County Treasurer, and Land Bank Committee President Lou Ann Wannemacher, shared that the Land Bank has finalized purchase of the trailer court located at 802 N. Main Street in Paulding. The purchase from S&N Partnership, LLC will allow for some very aged mobile homes to be removed and remediation of the property to make room for future development. This trailer court had a fire last winter in which three residents lost their lives.

Another property purchase that has local attention is the former Faith Alive Church building located at 220 N. Williams Street in Paulding. This building will be removed to make way for the new Paulding Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial. There has been much inquiry about some of the stain glass windows, pews and other memorabilia inside the building. The committee is working with local auctioneer Larry Gorrell to have an online auction in the future for purchase of the items. More information will be shared about the auction dates as this project develops.

Matt Wagner, with EPA consultant Tetra Tech, shared information about the final clean-up procedures at the former Liberty Fuel Station, that was located in front of the former Varner's Trailer Court on the east side of Antwerp. A final soil test is being procured. A low contamination reading will allow the sale of the property. Wagner also reported the Stokely and Grizzley remediation projects are still on hold awaiting Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) approvals of the remediation application.

Northeast District

Commissioners approve renovations for new VSC offices

Ashtabula News Beacon, June 21, 2024

The Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners approved a contract for renovations to the new Ashtabula County Veterans Service Commission building at a meeting on Thursday afternoon.

The commissioners approved a contract with DeClan Construction, of Brookfield, for a maximum price of $647,700. The term of the contract runs until Oct. 31.

The commissioners purchased the building, located at 1709 East Prospect Rd. in Ashtabula Township, in March of 2023, to be used as the new headquarters for the Veterans Service Commission. The VSC offices are currently located at 1212 Lake Ave. in Ashtabula.

The new office will give the VSC room to expand its operations to better serve veterans, they said in a release around the time the building was purchased.

Central District

Commission OKs comprehensive plan

Delaware Gazette, June 21, 2024

The Delaware County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) last met on April 25 at the Byxbe Campus, and here's a glance at what took place.

- Amendments to the Troy Township Comprehensive Plan were recommended for approval to the township's zoning commission and trustees.

- RPC staff are currently managing zoning resolution amendments for Berlin Township and updates for Harlem Township. They are working on comprehensive plans for Liberty and Troy townships, as well as the Village of Shawnee Hills.

- A 12.4-acre rezoning from Farm Residential to Planned Commercial was denied on state Route 37 East in Berlin Township. The rezoning was "to provide a recreation facility to better serve the permitted gymnastics and dance use," minutes said. "It will also provide unheated, enclosed storage for the applicant's company's equipment."

However, "The request does not meet all applicable sections of the (Berlin) Zoning Resolution, it does not conform to the current (township's) Comprehensive Plan and may not be the most efficient use of land as the subject sit and surrounding properties to the north are all recommended for multi-family residential uses," the staff comments said.

- Final plats for sections one (40 lots on 36 acres) and two (29 lots on 16 acres) of Berlin Bluffs in Berlin Township (Pulte Homes) were tabled for 30 days "to resolve issues with the County Engineer's office," the minutes said.

- Another Berlin Township development, Hyatts Plaza (one lot on 2 acres), had its final plat approved. "Hyatts Plaza is a commercial subdivision that will include a 13,460-square-foot building with multiple tenant spaces. The site is located at the northwest corner of US-23 and Hyatts Road," minutes said.

Southwest District

County to 'roll out this red carpet' for veterans, but it also wants feedback

WCPO, June 17, 2024

The spotlight on veteran's concerns in Hamilton County has shone brightly for more than eight months following a WCPO Homefront investigation into Veteran Commission Services. Now county leaders are looking to change what you see in that light.

"One of the things that we found out is that we weren't helping enough veterans," said Hamilton County Commission President Alicia Reece.

Under the light of that investigation, Reece said there's a need to do more for veterans and a desire to hold a Veteran Appreciation Day by bringing together partnerships to help vets.

"Bringing Veterans Services together, because they actually run veteran services for Hamilton County, and the board and we help fund, we're saying we're on board," she said. "Then you have the Clerk of Courts on board, you have the DAV on board, we break down those silos, the VA is on board, break down all those silos that come together, and what better place to do it than the Great American Ball Park."

The event is about more than bringing veterans to the home of the Cincinnati Reds for stadium tours and free food. Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Pavan Parikh said this about fully helping veterans in a different way.

Southeast District

Jefferson County focuses on Eastern Gateway College's future amid litigation

WTOV9, June 18, 2024

A meeting on Tuesday of the Jefferson County Commission focused on the future of Eastern Gateway Community College and some of the factors that will impact taxpayers of the county.

"We were made aware of some litigation going on in the federal court, and as we've been doing this whole time, we want to protect the taxpayers' interest," Commissioner Eric Timmons said. "This is a very fluid situation with a lot of moving parts but that's what we're looking at."

As for what it means for the community, Timmons said commissioners are working to prevent the county dealing with any significant economic downturn and are working to keep residents in the loop.

"There's lot going on and I feel like Jefferson County residents, at times, get stuck and I was talking about the Appalachian grant and how I feel we got left out of that," Timmons said. "And I think this is one of those instances where we need to be up in the forefront and not have it happen."

The timeline of events is still changing as local officials are still working with state and school officials to learn what the plan is and the changes that they see happening so they can react in the best interest for the county.

"It's going to take a lot of time, I feel like, and don't really know where it's going to go, but we'll be there to protect the citizens interest," Timmons said. "That's why we have these meetings, special meetings, so that we can get things moving and make sure we plan for anything and the next steps that are going to happen."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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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

JULY 19
County Classic Golf Outing

JULY 26
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

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