View this email in your browser

August 18, 2025

Congratulations to the 2025 County Classic Champions — CCAO Managing Director of Policy Kyle Petty, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Legislative Liaison Joe Gruber, QuidelOrtho Sr. Regional Account Manager Jordan Glick, and Miles-McClellan Construction Project Executive Dillon Overman (not pictured)!

Thanks to all who donated and played, we surpassed our $10,000 goal for the CCAO Research & Education Foundation, funding scholarships for future public service leaders.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

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

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

---

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

Back to Top

Governor authorizes disaster relief for counties affected by severe weather

Governor Mike DeWine announced last week that he has authorized the use of the State Disaster Relief Program to support 12 counties that were significantly impacted by severe storms and flooding during several weather events that occurred over the following time periods:

February 14 - 16, 2025:

- Jackson

March 30 - April 10, 2025:

- Athens
- Clermont
- Hamilton
- Jackson
- Lawrence
- Meigs
- Monroe
- Noble
- Scioto
- Shelby
- Washington

July 26 - 28, 2025:

- Fairfield

The State Disaster Relief Program is a reimbursement program that can be used in instances where storm damage amounts do not meet the threshold for federal assistance but do meet state program requirements. This program is intended to provide supplemental state assistance to local governments and eligible private non-profit organizations for costs associated with certain damage repairs, debris removal, and emergency protective measures.

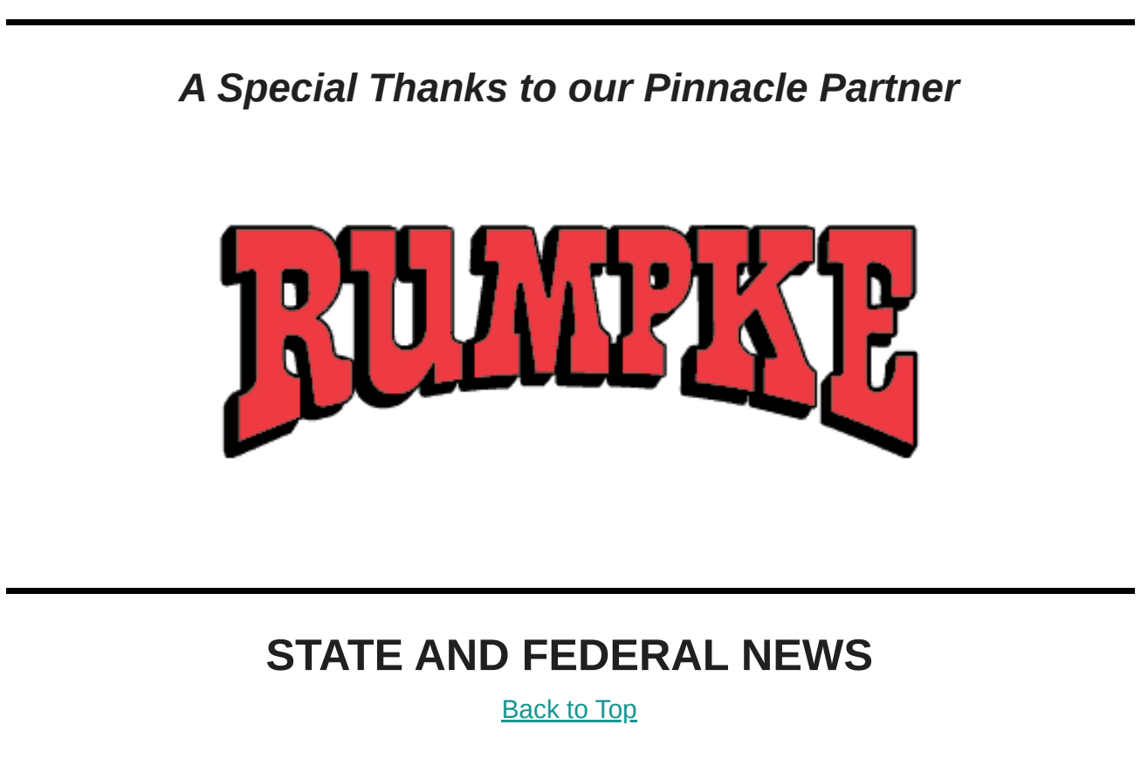
The SDRP is authorized for counties whose damages meet a countywide per capita indicator. Governor DeWine's authorization allows the Ohio Emergency Management Agency to request the funding from the Ohio Controlling Board.

Department of Commerce to hold tree planting in honor of former CCAO staffer Josh Hahn

Next Friday, August 29, the Department of Commerce will be hosting a memorial tree planting for Josh Hahn, who passed away in October 2024. When Josh passed away, he was serving as the Assistance Director of the Department of Commerce. Earlier in his career, he was a member of the CCAO Policy Team from 2007 to 2013.

The planting will be held at the State Fire Marshal Campus (8895 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068).

If you could like to attend, please RSVP to Ciara.Billingsley@com.ohio.gov by August 25.


Memorial Tree Planting for

JOSH HAHN

August 29 at 10 a.m.
State Fire Marshal Campus
8895 E Main St
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Light refreshments to follow.
Please RSVP to Ciara.Billingsley@com.ohio.gov by August 25.

Please enter through the gate at the SFM entrance.
The memorial area will be visible upon arrival.

Ohio Department of Commerce

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

RUMPKE

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

Back to Top

Secretary of State releases advisory on voting machine petitions

Secretary of State Frank LaRose recently issued SOS Advisory 2025-04, regarding attempted use of Form No. 6-D by electors of some counties to repeal the authority of the county to use voting machines.

The advisory explains that Form No. 6-D can only be used to put a vote before the people to authorize the use of machines; there is no authorization in the Revised Code for a popular vote to repeal the ability for a county to use voting machines.

Since there is no mechanism for repealing a county's authorization of voting machines through a petition, the Secretary of State is advising county boards of elections to reject Form No. 6-Ds that are submitted for that reason.

If you have any questions concerning this advisory, please contact the Secretary of State's elections
counsel at 614-728-8789.

OneOhio Recovery Foundation approves $40 million regional grant budget for next cycle

Last week, the OneOhio Recovery Foundation Board of Directors voted to allocate $40 million in funding for regional grants in the next grant cycle. The budget available to each region for this cycle will include any carryover funds that were not awarded in the region during the last round. Each region's budget for the grant cycle #2 is available here.

The Foundation has not announced the timeline for grant cycle #2. Reporting is in process for grant cycle #1. The Foundation shared that nearly all 245 projects awarded grants submitted the first report on time.

To learn more about the Foundation's work and sign up for important updates, visit the OneOhio Recovery Foundation website.

NACo launching initiative to support rural county leaders in energy decision-making

NACo's Rural Energy Academy is a unique opportunity for rural county leaders to engage with subject matter experts and peers exploring their energy production potential. This initiative follows the work of NACo's Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC), which focused on supporting coal community leaders as they diversify local economies and plan for a more resilient future for their residents and workers. One key finding of the BRECC network was that their grid-connected infrastructure and geographies can often make exploring new energy technologies a viable economic development strategy.

In this first phase, NACo's Rural Energy Academy will focus on helping rural county leaders navigate development and siting of potential wind and solar energy projects and whether they are right for their communities. Recent incentives, changes in federal policy and increased attention on rural areas with wind or solar resources has created a meet-the-moment opportunity for rural counties. In response to member requests, the Rural Energy Academy will offer site visits, technical assistance and peer learning opportunities to support rural leaders as they make local decisions that will work best for their communities.

Email energy@naco.org to be added to the interest list or share an idea about future Rural Energy Academy programming.

National survey of 9-1-1 centers highlights improvements from NG 9-1-1, potential for AI

The Nation Emergency Number Association (NENA) and Carbyne, a provider of emergency communication solutions, recently the 2025 results of their annual "Pulse of 9-1-1" survey. The results are drawn from a nationwide survey of emergency communications center personnel across the United States and Canada.

Respondents ranked "Location services," "Text to 9-1-1," and "Incident imagery" as the biggest innovations in emergency communications in the prior three years. All of these features are among those that the Next Generation 9-1-1 system enables. Ohio is in the midst of a rollout of NG 9-1-1.

Notably, 9% of the respondents indicated that their communications center had been hit by a cyber attack that caused service outages. This was not a response tracked in prior iterations of the survey, suggesting that attacks on 9-1-1 call centers are on the rise.

Another question asked what, if anything, centers are using artificial intelligence for. A plurality (42%) are not utilizing AI but may pursue it in the future, while 25% indicate they have no intention of utilizing AI in emergency communications.

Among those centers that did report using AI in their operations, the two most common usages were for real-time transcription and real-time language translation.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

Back to Top

Office of Budget and Management newsletters provide valuable information to counties

The Office of Budget and Management offers two free monthly newsletters that CCAO members and county staff may find useful. CCAO staff subscribes to both newsletters and frequently refers to them.

Ohio Connects is the monthly e-publication of OBM. It provides news, information, and spotlights on grants and training opportunities.

Ohio's Monthly Financial Report is released on the 10th of each month and summarizes the state's financial performance from the prior month. It provides information on several sectors of the economy, such as construction, employment, and consumption. It also details monthly and year-to-date General Revenue Fund receipts.

You can subscribe to one or both of these newsletters by completing this online form. Subscription selection is made after providing an email.

COUNTY NEWS

Back to Top

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

Commissioners approve speed limit changes after discussion

LimaOhio.com, August 14, 2025

A resolution concerning speed limits prompted a lengthy discussion at Thursday's Allen County commissioners agenda meeting.

The board considered two resolutions Thursday featuring speed reductions. The first was for a portion of Lincoln Highway near Delphos running from Lehman Road to the westbound U.S. Route 30 entrance ramp, with the limit being reduced from 55 mph to 50 mph.

"This was initiated by the City of Delphos," Allen County Engineer's Office Operations Engineer Mark Droll said. "I did a speed zone study between Lehman Road on the west side of (U.S. Route) 30 then going across Route 30 to the westbround ramps basically because Love's Travel Stop is there now with increased traffic."

The study involved working with the Allen County Regional Planning to set traffic counters recording the number of vehicles and the speed they were traveling, Droll said. That data, along with the number of houses and businesses and street intersections in the area, as well as the width of the driving lanes, prompted that determination to reduce the speed limit.

While that resolution passed without discussion, the second resolution elicited some debate. This reduction affected Breese Road from South Dixie Highway to Delong Road, reducing the limit from 45 mph to 35 mph.

"This was issued by our office because of the Wawa (gas station under construction)," Droll said. "A little history on that area: when it was inside the village of Fort Shawnee, Breese Road was always 35, and when the village dissolved, it became a county road and the speed limit was raised to 45, and also when ODOT designed the Breese Road bridge over I-75, that's actually designed at a 35 mph profile."

Northeast District

Stark County jail renovation to replace 60-year-old cellblocks begins

Canton Repository, August 8, 2025

On Aug. 15, 1965, the community gathered for an open house at the Stark County Jail to tour new linear cellblocks.

On Aug. 25, 2004, work started on the 2006 jail addition that cost $17 million.

Now, on Aug. 15, 2025, construction crews have broke ground once again on a massive jail addition and renovation, the biggest public works project in county history.

Stark County Administrator Brant Luther called it a "remarkable historical coincidence.

It's the start of two years of work on the project, which will include the addition of a new clover-leaf shaped housing unit. The new four-level cellblock will replace the aging linear cellblocks that opened exactly 60 years ago.

"Today is a proud day for Stark County," County Commissioner Richard Regula said to an audience of dozens of community members. "The 1965 portion of our jail is simply past its useful life, but rather than wait for crisis or pass the burden to future taxpayers, we acted."

Altogether, it's costing the county $75 million, paid for by the American Rescue Plan Act and the county's general fund and sales tax fund.

The new cellblock will be built on the site of the existing employee parking lot. Work started on excavating the area in front of the addition, which will become the new employee parking lot.

The renovation is expected to be complete by the end of January 2028.

Central District

Shelby, Mansfield and Richland County seek update to land use management plans

Richland Source, August 5, 2025

Shelby, Mansfield and Richland County as a whole want to plan ahead for future land use.

During a strategic planning update last year, Jessica Gribben, Shelby's economic development manager, said the city determined it needed a comprehensive land use management plan.

As cities grow, this type of document will help cities decide where it should invest time and resources, as well as where it should locate residential and commercial/industrial development.

Gribben spoke with Jotika Shetty, Richland County Regional Planning Commission executive director, for advice on how to approach the process. During their conversation, Shetty said the county's plan was due for an update itself.

"The City of Ontario and the Village of Lexington have just recently done comprehensive plans," Gribben told county commissioners Thursday morning. "They saw the value and went ahead and did their plans."

Gribben and Shetty also spoke with Mansfield Mayor Jodie Perry, who expressed similar interest in updating her city's plan.

With multiple parties interested, Gribben said she and Shetty decided it made sense to pursue the updating process jointly.

"Then everybody has a working document that they can go off of, but then specifically meets the needs of Shelby and Mansfield — saving money of the taxpayers across the county (by) doing it jointly," she said.

Commissioners approved a county taxpayer contribution of $50,000 from the board's general fund to help cover expenses for an outside consultant to work on a comprehensive, long-term land use plan — which will encompass Shelby, Mansfield and the county respectively.

Southwest District

Clinton Co. commissioners hear updates on health, zoning, and economic development

Wilmington News Journal, August 13, 2025

The Clinton County commissioners heard updates from several departments and organizations on Monday, Aug. 11, including the health department, building and zoning, and the Clinton County Foundation. They also received presentations on an annexation request, local healthcare plans from TriHealth, and county economic development projects.

Clinton County Health Commissioner Monica Woods updated the board on an ultracold freezer purchased by the commissioners during the COVID-19 pandemic. The unit, which cost several thousand dollars, was used to store the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

"The agreement was that I would see if we could find someone that would have a use for it," Woods said. "We also worked with facility services manager, Jeff Williams, through auction.gov but didn't have any success."

After further outreach failed to find a new home for the freezer, Williams recommended scrapping it. The unit's condensers have failed, and replacing them would cost about $3,500, which is an impractical repair for the specialized equipment.

"That's really a hard thing for me to do because it was such a valuable piece of equipment, but it is a specialized unit," Woods said. "Thank you for your collaboration on that freezer. It was a great use to the community, especially during such a crazy time in all of our lives. It was utilized well. My recommendation would be to follow Jeff's recommendation to scrap it."

At the height of the pandemic, the freezer stored nearly 18,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which at the time required temperatures as low as minus 80 degrees Celsius. When Pfizer moved to a refrigerated formulation in 2024, the health district repurposed the freezer for the OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank, using it to store donated milk.

Woods noted that the program can now operate with a smaller, standard refrigerator, which would be more cost-effective and take up less space.

Southeast District

Gallia County Commission advances airport and infrastructure projects

WVNews, August 15, 2025

The Gallia County Commission on Thursday approved multiple measures to advance regional airport and infrastructure projects, including grant agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration and a major change order for a sewer project.

Commission President Leslie Henry and Commissioner Jeremy Kroll were both present. Also attending were Interim county administrators Amanda Phillips and Janie Peck, Grant Administrator Karen Sprague, and Special Projects Manager Tom White.

Sprague presented independent fee estimates from CMT Engineering for two design projects at the Gallia-Meigs Regional Airport: Expanding the asphalt apron by approximately 160 feet by 85 feet, and rehabilitating 4,950 square yards of terminal apron. The FAA-required cost analysis determined the projects' proposed costs were reasonable. The commission voted to approve letters of cost reasonableness to the FAA, with Task Order 1 valued at $175,000 and Task Order 2 at $155,000.

The commission also approved two FAA grant agreements for the 2025 fiscal year. One provides $173,375 for the apron expansion project, requiring a 5% county match of $9,125, while the other provides $154,375 for the rehabilitation project, with an $8,125 county match. Both matches will be paid from the County Airport Authority Fund. The commission established new grant funds and allocated the money toward professional fees and administrative costs.

Additionally, Sprague delivered the seventh status report for the county's FY 2021 State ARC Grant supporting the airport terminal building project. The report outlined $3.35 million in total funding from multiple federal, state and local sources, with $958,733 spent to date and $2.39 million remaining. The commission approved the report for submission to the Ohio Department of Development.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Back to Top

AUGUST 24 - 26
2025 CCAO Summer Symposium
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting (August 26)

AUGUST 29
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

SEPTEMBER 1
Labor Day - Legal Holiday

SEPTEMBER 12
CORSA Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 19
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

Copyright © 2025 CCAO, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.