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County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

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| APRIL 13, 2007 | CCAO REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING, BLUEBIRD FARM, CARROLL COUNTY (CARROLLTON) |
| APRIL 19, 2007 | CCAO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 20, 2007 | CCAO BOARD OF TRUSTEES, CCAO OFFICES, COLUMBUS |
| APRIL 22-28, 2007 | NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK - WWW.NACO.ORG |
| APRIL 23, 2007 | NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, TREE LINKS GOLF COURSE, LOGAN COUNTY (BELLEFONTAINE) |
| APRIL 27, 2007 | CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, SALLIES, ASHLAND COUNTY (ASHLAND) |
| MAY 4, 2007 | CCC/ESAO REGIONAL MEETING, THEO'S RESTAURANT, GUERNSEY COUNTY (CAMBRIDGE) |
| JUNE 10-12, 2007 | CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PARK INN TOLEDO (FORMERLY RADISSON HOTEL), LUCAS COUNTY (TOLEDO) |
| JULY 13-17, 2007 | NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE, RICHMOND, VA |

ASSOCIATION NEWS

LOGAN COUNTY TO HOST NW DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS & ENGINEERS ASSN - APRIL 23

Logan County Commissioners John Bayliss, David Knight and Jack Reser and County Engineer Scott Coleman will host the next quarterly meeting of the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association on Monday, April 23, 2007 at Tree Links Golf Course, 3482 County Road 10, in Bellefontaine.

A four-person scramble **golf outing** begins at 10:00 a.m. Cost: \$20 per person (includes 18-hole greens fee and a shared cart). To register your team for the golf outing, please contact Michaela Brunke, Logan County Engineer's Office, at (937) 592-2791 or fax (937) 599-2658. Please pay on the day of the event and make checks payable to Tree Links Golf Course.

Registration for the **quarterly meeting** begins at Tree Links Golf Course at noon. Transportation leaves for the following tours at 1:00 p.m.:

- Tour #1 - Piatt Castles, The Pioneer House and Marie's Chocolates
- Tour #2 - Logan Acres and Honda of America Manufacturing

The business meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. followed by the social hour and dinner. Registration fee: \$10.00 per person. Registration deadline: April 16, 2007. Cancellation deadline: April 20, 2007. Please pay on the day of the event. Make checks payable to the Northwest Ohio Commissioners and Engineers Association. For more information please contact Kacy Kirby, Clerk/Administrator, Logan County Commissioners, 117 East Columbus Avenue, Bellefontaine, OH 43311, (937) 599-7284, fax (937) 599-7268 or kkirby@co.logan.oh.us.

COUNTY LOSS CONTROL COORDINATORS ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING – APRIL 27

Join the County Loss Control Coordinators Association (CLCCA) 2007 Spring Meeting, on Friday, April 27, at Troyer's Dutch Heritage restaurant in Bellville Ohio (Exit 165 off I-71 between Mansfield and Columbus). Topics: "There's Gonna Be Some Changes... An Update on new Public Records and Civil Service Legislation."

Recent case law and public opinion have placed public records under the spotlight for Ohio public entities. Substitute House Bill 9 adds new requirement for the handling of public records. When a public records request is made, will your county be in compliance with the new requirements? Years of work at the capital culminated in changes to Ohio Civil Service law. County Human Resources professionals will need to know how these changes impact them.

Attorney Marc Fishel, of Downes, Hurst, and Fishel will address both of these topics at the meeting. In addition, there will be a discussion of liability issues facing counties with Jim Hale, CORSA Loss Control Consultant. Jim will address important liability issues facing counties and present newly released risk management and training tools: CORSA University and the HR Helpdesk.

CLCCA members may attend at no cost. There will be a \$15 fee for non-members. To register, contact Pat Harsh, Coshocton County Loss Control Coordinator, by April 20 at (740) 295-7467 (ptharsh@coshoctoncounty.net). For information about CLCCA contact Brian Dunn, Logan County Projects Coordinator, at (937) 599-7280, (bdunn@co.logan.oh.us).

FORNI ACCEPTS POSITION AT ODA

Monroe County Commissioner and CCAO Past President Mark Forni has accepted a position at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (OGA) to work with the farmland preservation program and outreach to local government. Mark will be working with ODA Director and former Ashtabula County Commissioner Bob Boggs. He will assume his duties at OGA on Monday, April 2.

Mark has served as Monroe County Commissioner from 1989 until the present. Prior to his election as county commissioner, Mark was a Soil and Water Conservation District supervisor. He has been involved with the RC&D program for 23 years. In addition, Mark was a trustee at Belmont Technical College for nine years. Best wishes to Mark as he continues his career in public service at the Ohio Department of Agriculture!

IN MEMORIAM

RAY CRON

Former Mercer County Commissioner Ray Cron died on Saturday, March 17 following an illness he had fought over the past few years. Cron served two terms as a county commissioner from 1995 to 2002. Prior to his election as county commissioner, Ray had a successful career in education as a teacher and principal at public and parochial schools and a supervisor of county schools. Cron was born in Auglaize County and attended Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton before serving in the U.S. Army. He earned college degrees from the University of Dayton and Wright State University. CCAO extends heartfelt sympathy to the Cron family. Notes of sympathy may be send to the Cron family at 400 Pleasant View Drive, Celina, OH 45822.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO FORECLOSURE FILINGS JUMPED SHARPLY IN 2006 - CUYAHOGA COUNTY AGAIN RANKS FIRST IN RATE; GROWTH GREATEST IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Ohio foreclosure filings jumped sharply in 2006, Policy Matters Ohio reported in a recent study released this week. Overall, according to data reported to the Ohio Supreme Court by common pleas court judges across the state, there were 79,072 new foreclosure filings, an increase of more than 15,000 or 23.6 percent from 2005. The latest numbers indicate that Ohio's foreclosure crisis, already severe, worsened substantially in 2006.

The gain in filings represents the largest absolute gain in recent history and the largest relative gain since 2002, according to the study, *Foreclosure Growth in Ohio 2007*. It comes after three years of smaller increases. Filings grew by double-digit rates in 68 of Ohio's 88 counties in 2006, and statewide, they have nearly quintupled since 1995.

Cuyahoga County again led the state in foreclosure filings per person, followed by Montgomery and Summit counties. Fast-growing Delaware County led the state in foreclosure-filing growth between 2005 and 2006, as filings soared nearly 50 percent. Since Franklin and Pickaway counties also showed among the fastest growth in filings last year, three of the top ten counties with the highest growth were in the Columbus area.

Filings grew somewhat faster in urban counties than in the state as a whole, and the ten most populated counties dominate the list of those with the most filings per person. However, during 2006, 78 of Ohio's 88 counties saw an increase in the number of filings. The number of filings grew by 20 percent or more in 46 counties.

"Foreclosures have become a pervasive problem in Ohio," said Zach Schiller, Policy Matters research director and author of the report. "Additional steps should be taken to provide relief to borrowers harmed

by abusive lending practices and to bolster protection for home buyers."

Foreclosure filings at least doubled in all but two of Ohio's counties over the past 11 years; in 82 counties, the number at least tripled, and in 70, it quadrupled.

Foreclosure filing data does not provide a complete picture of foreclosures, as it includes non-mortgage filings and double filings. Not all filings lead to actual foreclosures, in which borrowers lose title to their property. On the other hand, filing statistics do not cover all cases in which homeowners lose their property, such as cases in which they give the title back to the lender and walk away from the home. Filing data is the best source of information to compare recent levels of foreclosure activity in the state and among Ohio's counties.

Policy Matters Ohio conducts a biennial survey on sheriff sales of foreclosed properties in Ohio. Surveys last year and previously indicate that while the number of families actually losing their homes to foreclosure is considerably lower than the number of filings, it has grown sharply and tens of thousands of Ohio households are losing their homes to foreclosure each year.

For more information please contact Zach Schiller, Research Director, Policy Matters Ohio, 3631 Perkins Avenue - Suite 4C-East, Cleveland, OH 44114, phone (216) 361-9801, fax (216) 361-9810, zschiller@policymattersohio.org or www.policymattersohio.org.

MR/DD BOARD VACANCIES

Effective March 29, 2007, whenever a vacancy occurs on a county MR/DD board, the "appointing authority" must cause a notice of the vacancy to be published on at least two separate dates in one or more newspapers serving the county or counties the county board serves. (R.C. 5126.0214.) Under that provision, the "appointing authority" is the board of county commissioners, if the commissioners appointed the board, or the county senior probate judge, if the judge appointed the board. Existing law already requires the appointing authority to fill the vacancy within 60 days after the vacancy occurs.

These changes were enacted in H.B. 699, which the General Assembly passed on December 20, 2006. For more information please contact Beth Dominic, CCAO Policy Analyst, (614) 220-7996, (888) 757-1904 or bdominic@ccao.org.

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY SITE CHOSEN FOR TEST OF DEEP WELL CO2 EMISSIONS STORAGE

Gov. Ted Strickland said Thursday that Tuscarawas County would be the site for a \$2.3 million project his administration described as "the first step towards making clean coal technologies a reality in Ohio." The project will entail a "stratigraphic borehole" drilled to the depth of 8,600 feet in search of porous rock layers that could hold carbon dioxide in "sequestration." The method could provide a depository for the emissions as an alternative to atmospheric dispersal.

"Ohio has one of the most energy intensive economies in the country," Mr. Strickland said in a news release. "This project explores cutting edge technology to decrease those carbon emissions and protect Ohio's current manufacturing and energy industries while attracting new ones."

A team from the Department of Natural Resources and Battelle Memorial Institute selected the deep well test site near Port Washington in Salem Township, the administration said. A positive test result could bode well for industrial development in the area. The funding covers the cost of drilling, testing, data analysis, and reporting on the project, slated for completion in 2008. ODNR, Battelle and the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority are working in conjunction on the initiative.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

RE-ENTRY LEGISLATION REINTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

The Second Chance Act of 2007 was reintroduced on March 21, 2007 in the House of Representatives by Reps. Danny Davis (D-Ill.) and Chris Cannon (R-Utah) with broad bi-partisan support. The bill, H.R. 1593 has the support of Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (D-Mich.); Ranking Member Lamar Smith (R-Texas); Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Chair of the Crime

Subcommittee; and Randy Forbes (R-Va.) Ranking Member, among others. In the last session, 112 members co-sponsored the legislation. The legislation was reported out of the Judiciary Committee on March 28. The legislation will authorize grants to local governments and states focused on the employment, housing and substance abuse and mental health needs of inmates.

Re-entry programs seek to lower recidivism by focusing on inmates while they are incarcerated and during their transition back into the community. It has been estimated that close to 70 percent of inmates leaving jail or prison will be re-arrested within three years of their release and half will be re-incarcerated. (Contact: Donald Murray, NACo Senior Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4239 or dmurray@naco.org.)

SAFETY NET SCHOOLS AND OTHER DOMESTIC PROGRAMS INCLUDED IN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

On Friday, March 23, the House approved the \$124 billion Emergency Supplemental Appropriations measure (H.R. 1591) by a vote of 218-212. The controversial bill includes several domestic spending provisions important to counties. First, it includes a one-year extension of the Forest County Safety Net Schools. Second, it includes \$750 million to cover the shortfall the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Finally, it includes \$400 million for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). At one point, the House bill included a rescission of the program that gives \$250 million a year to hospitals that provide emergency services to large numbers of undocumented. However, that rescission was stripped from the bill in committee.

The Senate Appropriations Committee also passed its version of the bill Thursday, March 22. It includes \$750 million for SCHIP and \$600 million for LIHEAP. Senators Feinstein and Craig secured emergency funding for one year of the Forest County Safety Net at the current formula for \$425m in the Chairman's Mark of the Supplemental Appropriations. This is in addition to the \$100m in the base that the FS/BLM expects to take in with receipts. Thus, our grand total is \$525m. In addition, Title II (Resource Advisory Committees) and Title III projects are reauthorized.

This is different from the House in that they have only \$400m in emergency funding and do not reauthorize Titles II and III. The measure could be considered on the Senate floor as early as March 26.

The outcome of the legislation is uncertain. The President has said he will veto the measure over the Iraq war restrictions and the spending not related to hurricane relief and the war. (Contacts: Paul V. Beddoe, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4248 or pbeddoe@naco.org, Safety Net bill or Marilina Sanz, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org, SCHIP and LIHEAP)

NACo URGES CMS TO WITHDRAW REGULATIONS

NACo submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) urging them to withdraw the proposed rules that would restrict Medicaid payments to public providers and adversely affect access to health care. NACo's comments focused on four issues: a change in the definition of units of government, restricting allowable sources of state and local government financing, cost limitations, and implementation.

There is increased interest on Capitol Hill in repealing the regulations. A group of 60 Senators has written the administration asking to withdraw the rules. Additionally, while a repeal bill has not been introduced three members of the Florida delegation, Senator Mel Martinez (R) and Representatives Ron Klein (D) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R) have introduced legislation (S.787/H.R. 1480) to impose a two year moratorium. (Contact: Marilina Sanz, NACo Associate Legislative Director, at (202) 942-4260 or msanz@naco.org)

U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE BILLS OFFER FEDERAL MONEY TO IMPLEMENT VOTE BY MAIL ELECTIONS

S. 979 and H. R. 1667 two companion bills introduced on March 23, would establish a Vote by Mail Act of 2007 grant program for States that seek to

conduct elections by mail. The nearly identical bills provide funding and set requirements for participating States.

H. R. 1667 attempts to promote the Vote by Mail system by making funding available for States that seek to implement similar programs. The grants will be available to participating States solely to assist in implementing the Vote by Mail procedures in all elections at the State or local government level. Grants could not be used to reimburse pre-existing Vote by Mail costs. States must also adopt several procedures to ensure the success of the program.

H. R. 1667 requires the Election Administration Commission (EAC) to administer the grant program. States must submit an application to participate. States can apply for funding to conduct all elections in the State by mail. If approved, the State would receive two million dollars. Conversely, the State can apply for monies to conduct all elections for a local governmental unit(s) by mail. In this case, the State would receive one million dollars to distribute to the local governmental unit(s). Overall, the EAC could only award one grant to any participating State over the three-year duration of the program.

H. R. 1667 presents a great opportunity for the State or its counties to implement a Vote by Mail program. The Vote by Mail program itself could reduce the cost of conducting traditional elections by thirty percent. The federal funds available under H. R. 1667 would further defray these expenses. Moreover, Ohio already meets some of H. R. 1667's procedural requirements or could easily and inexpensively do so with the guidance of the EAC.

S. 979 attempts to achieve the same goals as H.R. 1667.

NACo ACTIVITIES

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AWARD PROGRAM

Every two years, the Sustainable Communities Awards Program recognizes outstanding urban, suburban, and rural counties whose innovative

collaborations are leading the effort to create sustainable communities through economic enhancement, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. This county led awards program honors creative partnerships in developing sustainable communities. Applications are due May 11, 2007. For more information please contact Casey Dillon at (202) 942-4243, cdillon@naco.org or www.naco.org/sustainable.

NACo DISASTER/TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT AVAILABLE

The toolkit includes software for good decision-making, a CD with useful preparedness documents and a DVD entitled, "The Seven Signs of Terrorism" that is customizable for local communities. Supplies are limited. NACo developed the kit with financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office of Grants and Training. (Contact: Rocky Lopes, NACo Project Manager, Community Services, at (202) 664-8841 or rlopes@naco.org)

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

OHIO UNIVERSITY HUMAN RESOURCE INSTITUTE

The 13th Annual Ohio University Human Resource Institute will be held on May 11, 2007 at the Ohio University - Zanesville Campus, 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville. The keynote speaker is Kurt D. Southam, Ph.D., author of Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High. Other sessions focus on today's multigenerational workforce, ergonomics, legal update, on-line training and blended learning, legislative update, proactive employee relations, HR professionals at the management table, interviewing skills, and how to manage change.

Registration fees: \$75 - single registration, \$55 - two or more registrants from the same organization, or \$20 for a single session registration. 6.0 Recertification Credits toward PHR and SPHR through the Human Resource Institute are available. For more information please contact: Ohio University - Zanesville HR Institute, 1425 Newark Road,

Zanesville, OH 43701-2624, (740) 588-1401, www.zanesville.ohio.ed/ce.

CLASSIFIEDS

WATER/WASTEWATER DIRECTOR

Licking County Board of Commissioners is accepting applications for a Water/Wastewater Director in the Water/Wastewater Department. This position is responsible for planning, directing, and administering the operations of the County Water/Wastewater Department. Candidates must possess a Bachelor's Degree in a related field and 10 years experience to include the responsibility for managing the fiscal aspects of an organization, supervising subordinates, developing and implementing policies, programs, laws, rules and/or regulations. Certification in Water/Wastewater is desired.

Starting range \$55,000 - \$68,000. Successful candidates will be subject to Licking County's pre-employment drug screen. A complete job posting can be obtained by visiting our website www.lcounty.com or visiting the Human Resources Department. Applications can be printed from the web site at www.lcounty.com or can be picked up at: Licking County Human Resources Department, 20 South Second Street - 3rd Floor, Newark OH 43055. EOE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CCAO publishes the County Information and Data Service (CIDS) weekly. Classified ads will be published free of charge as a service to counties. Ads will run for two weeks if space is available. Please provide faxed or e-mailed copy of the classified ad by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. Transmit the copy to Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, via fax at (614) 221-6986 or e-mail mjneiman@ccao.org.

