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County Information and Data Service

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DATES TO REMEMBER

MARCH 1-5, 2008	NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, HILTON WASHINGTON & TOWERS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BREAKFAST, RAYBURN BUILDING - ROOM B-369, WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 5, 2008	OHIO STATEHOOD DAY
APRIL 6-12, 2008	NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
JUNE 8-10, 2008	CCAO/CEAO ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE, LAKE COUNTY (PAINESVILLE)
AUGUST 6, 2008	CCAO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, OAKHAVEN GOLF CLUB, DELAWARE COUNTY (DELAWARE)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK – APRIL 6-12

In 2008, the National County Government Week's theme is "Protecting Our Children." Counties can show their residents the many ways they work to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of children in sensible and cost-effective ways.

National County Government Week (NCGW) is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1991, the goal of county government week is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

There are activities at the national, state and local levels during county government week. More than 1,000 counties annually participate in NCGW by

holding a variety of programs and events. These include tours of county facilities, presentations in schools, meetings with business and community leaders, recognition programs for volunteers, briefings on environmental projects, and adoption of proclamations.

For more information go to www.naco.org and click on the story on the front page.

2008 CCAO ROSTER UPDATES

Thanks to the 58 counties that have updated information for the *2008 CCAO Roster!* The updated information should reflect the 2008 reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners.

Newly appointed commissioners and veteran commissioners that would like to update their photos should e-mail them now. Please do not

staple, fax photos or send photos from the newspaper, because the reproduction quality is poor.

Updated information and photos are due now. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

NACo LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE;
STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

The 110th Congress, Second Session will scrutinize a great number of programs that assist counties. As a county official you need to know what this means for counties, what you can do about the issues, and how you can strengthen the voice of local government on Capitol Hill. With a philosophy of “those who show up decide,” you have a host of reasons to attend the NACo Legislative Conference!

The NACo Legislative Conference will be held March 1-5, 2008 at the Hilton Washington. **Register online at www.naco.org to save \$25.** Early bird registrations were due January 18! Hotel rooms fill up fast, so register now for a room at or close to the conference headquarters hotel.

OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 5 in the Rayburn House Office Building – Room B369, in Washington. Letters of invitation have been sent to the Ohio Congressional Delegation. Call now to make your appointments to meet with them during the conference!

Attendance at the breakfast is open to all Ohio conference attendees and their traveling companions. For more information about the conference or to register for the Ohio Congressional Delegation Breakfast, please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

COUNTY ACTIVITIES

FRANKLIN COUNTY TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO GO 'GREEN'

In Franklin County's ongoing quest to go 'green,' County Commissioners Marilyn Brown, Paula Brooks and Mary Jo Kilroy passed a resolution approving a contract for all traffic signals under the jurisdiction of the Franklin County Engineer Dean Ringle to use high-efficiency LED lights. Sixty-percent of the traffic signals already use LED lights. This project would replace the remaining signals that still use incandescent bulbs. All newly-built signals use LED lights.

The installation of the LED lights will save money as they use half of the energy of the incandescent bulbs. The contract will cover the maintenance of 65 signals, 55 school flashers and 11 other types of flashers. In addition to the cost/energy savings, LEDs don't burn out like incandescent bulbs so this reduces "emergency" call-outs—such as a red light going out.

STATE ACTIVITIES

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SURVEY ON THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF EMPLOYERS

In light of today's global economy and the desire to educate students for success in higher education and careers and as fully participating citizens, the Ohio State Board of Education is asking stakeholders from all aspects of the business community to provide input into policy recommendations and next steps.

The web address (https://webapp1.ode.state.oh.us/odesurvey/survey_s/Edge_Survey.asp) links to a brief survey that asks respondents to offer comments on the types of skills, knowledge and behaviors that employees need today to be successful in the workplace and also what will be needed in the future to ensure that Ohio is competitive in the new global economy. The State Board of Education will use the results from the survey to help develop policy recommendations and define next steps in reforming Ohio's education system.

The survey link will be active until early February. For more information please contact: Marianne E. White, Management Analyst Supervisor, Ohio Department of Education, Office of Policy and Accountability, 25 South Front Street, Mail Stop 708, Columbus, OH 43215, (614) 995-9944, fax (614) 728-2627, or marianne.white@ode.state.oh.us.

OHIO STATEHOOD DAY – MARCH 5

What are you doing for Statehood Day? Join history advocates and professionals from across the state on March 5, 2008 for Statehood Day – the date in 1803 when Ohio became the nation's 17th state. Statehood Day provides a great opportunity to highlight the importance of Ohio's history and help demonstrate how history impacts local communities through economic re-development, education, attracting tourism and adding to Ohioans' quality of life.

Last year, 150 of Ohio's state and local history and heritage advocates joined together in Columbus on Statehood Day to communicate a message to state legislators that history works. Activities include a briefing about the legislative issues important to history advocates as well as pertinent historic information about Ohio's statehood. Following a luncheon, the group will spend the afternoon meeting in teams with state legislators and their aides. Governor Ted Strickland has been invited to be the guest speaker.

Statehood Day 2008 activities will take place in the Statehouse Atrium, lasting from 10:00 a.m. until approximately 4:00 p.m. For more information and an agenda go to <http://www.ohiohistory.org/about/lu/sd.html>. There is no charge to attend the event. Please RSVP your attendance by February 25 to Todd Kleismit, Director of Government Relations, Ohio Historical Society, at (614) 297-2355 or tkleismit@ohiohistory.org.

FEDERAL ACTIVITIES

OHIO TO RECEIVE OVER \$25 MILLION IN LIHEAP FUNDING

Last week, Senator George V. Voinovich wrote to President Bush urging him to consider releasing contingency funds for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). These funds would help states like Ohio provide assistance to low-income individuals with the costs of their home heating bills.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates that households could pay substantially more for heating fuels this winter than last winter. Over the past year, an estimated 60,000 Ohio families living in Appalachia and rural northwestern Ohio have seen the cost of propane and fuel oil increase by 22 percent and 17 percent, respectively. This winter the EIA forecasts prices in the Midwest for propane and heating oil will increase 21.8 percent and 33 percent, respectively.

As a result, nationwide applications for LIHEAP have increased by 26 percent from 4.6 million to about 5.8 million - about 15.6 percent of the eligible population so far this year. In Ohio, more than half of the program's \$37 million budget for the winter was exhausted during the first six weeks of the program.

This week Senator Voinovich learned the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be providing \$25,743,608 to Ohio in LIHEAP contingency fund money out of a total release of \$450 million. The funds should have been released to Ohio this week.

For FY08, Ohio's regular allocation was \$100 million (the same as FY07). The funding released this week would be in addition to that original \$100 million.

IRS 2008 STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2008 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates

for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 48.5 cents per mile for 2007. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 20 cents in 2007. The rate for miles driven in service of charitable organizations has remained the same.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile; the standard rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by a study. The mileage rate for charitable miles is set by law. Revenue Procedure 2007-70 (www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-07-70.pdf) contains additional information on these standard mileage rates.

ADAMS NAMED DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR FARM SERVICE AGENCY'S COMMODITY OPERATIONS

Congratulations to former Marion County Commissioner Larry Adams who has been appointed as the Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations, Farm Service Agency (FSA) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Adams is responsible for developing policies and regulations for the dairy price support program; the storage, handling and disposition of Commodity Credit Corporation's owned commodities; and for the export and domestic commodity donation programs. Under Adams' leadership, Commodity Operations produces a uniform regulatory system for the storage of agricultural products and ensures the timely provision of food products procured for domestic and international food assistance programs and market development programs.

Prior to this appointment, Adams was the assistant deputy administrator for farm programs for FSA, state executive director for the Ohio Farm Service Agency, assistant director for the Ohio Department

of Agriculture, State Representative (86th Dist.) in the Ohio House of Representatives, and Marion County Commissioner. He also worked 18 years for the Whirlpool Corporation and is a fourth generation farmer.

BILLBOARD FIRM LOSES COURT CHALLENGE TO OHIO TOWNSHIP ZONING RULES THAT DENY PERMITS

A federal appeals court has rejected a billboard company's renewed challenge of an Ohio township's use of zoning regulations that block installation of the commercial signs. The decision came in a lawsuit that Midwest Media Property filed against Symmes Township in Hamilton County. Midwest Media lost its original case last October before a three-judge panel and petitioned the full 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for a rehearing. The court, in an order last week that produced a dissenting opinion, declined the company's request after a majority of active circuit judges did not favor it.

Midwest Media challenged the township's sign regulations on First Amendment grounds when nine applications it submitted to erect commercial billboards in the township were denied. The regulations restrict the size and type of signs that may appear in various locations in that part of the Greater Cincinnati area. One zoning regulation prohibits commercial advertising off the premises of the business being advertised.

Dissenting Judge Eric Clay said all the judges should have heard the matter on rehearing because the 2007 opinion upholding the township regulation scheme conflicted with an earlier circuit decision. Judge Clay said the court's action leaves the township free to maintain what he described as an unconstitutional system of prior restraint. As a result, he said, the billboard company may be permanently subjected to unconstitutional censorship.

"I pity the poor litigants and district judges who, faced with such clashing decisions and lack of guidance from this court, must now attempt to unravel the confusion which the panel majority has created," Judge Clay said. "Even worse, I regret that the (full) court has chosen to remain silent on

this question, thereby quashing the First Amendment rights of (the company) through its silence," he said. Circuit Judges Boyce Martin, Karen Moore and Guy Cole joined in the dissent.

NACo ACTIVITIES

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PROGRAM

The NACo Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Begun in 1970, the Achievement Award Program promotes and recognizes innovative and successful programs that modernize and streamline county government and increase services to citizens. Last year eight Ohio counties won 20 NACo Achievement Awards.

Applications must be postmarked by **February 15, 2008**. Send applications to: 2008 Achievement Awards, National Association of Counties, P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. For more information please contact Deseree Gardner, NACo Research Associate, at (202) 942-4228 or e-mail dgardner@naco.org or fax your application to the NACo Research Division at (202) 737-0480. Copies of the application may be obtained from the NACo website at www.naco.org.

NACIO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE COMPETITION

Counties across the nation are invited to submit their best communication efforts for recognition by the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), an affiliate of NACo. Entry categories for the Awards of Excellence Competition include: annual reports, brochure & multiple-page booklets, internal & external publications, writing, graphic design, photography, audiovisual productions, special projects, and computer media. Submissions must have been completed from January 1 to December 31, 2007. Entries must be primarily the work of the entrant with outside assistance strictly limited to support functions, such as typesetting and printing.

Deadlines and entry fees:

- NACIO members - \$35 (by 5:00 p.m. on March 7) or \$50 (after March 7); or

- Non-members - \$50 (by 5:00 p.m. on March 7) or \$65 (after March 7).

No entries will be accepted after March 28, 2008. Entry forms can be downloaded from www.nacio.org. For more information please contact Mary Jane Neiman, CCAO Public Relations Associate, at (614) 220-7979, (888) 757-1904 or mjneiman@ccao.org.

WORKSHOP

YOUR WOODLOT AND THE EMERALD ASH BORER

OSU Extension will host a workshop on "Your Woodlot and The Emerald Ash Borer," on January 24, 2008. The presentation will address how the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) — now present in 34 Ohio counties — will affect decisions when managing ash timber and determining overall strategies for woodlots. The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Union County Agricultural Center, 18000 State Route 4, just north of Marysville. Registration cost: \$10.00. Registration deadline: January 21. For more information, contact the Union County office of OSU Extension at (937) 644-8117.

An exotic, invasive insect from Asia, EAB was first discovered in Ohio in 2003. The beetle's voracious larvae can kill ashes within three to five years. For more information about EAB, visit <http://ashalert.osu.edu> or call 1-888-OHIO-EAB.

CLASSIFIEDS

SENIOR PLANNER

The Knox County Regional Planning Commission is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of Senior Planner. Under the supervision of the Executive Committee of the Commission, the Senior Planner serves as Secretary to the Commission and is responsible for the following: Providing professional service to the public, leadership in all aspects of planning, administering regulations and managing staff, and working with the Commission's committee and local and other units of government.

This is a full-time position requiring a minimum of a four-year degree from an accredited university or college in planning or a related field; minimum of five years of experience with the varied aspects of planning in a regional/county planning commission or a similar organization; minimum of three years of administrative responsibility for staff; demonstrated professional development through certification by at least one statewide or national organization for planners and through other similar activities; ability to project a high level of professionalism and sensitivity in dealing with the public, developers, governmental officials and members of the Commission; computer experience and aptitude as demonstrated by proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, Publisher and Access as well as Arc View GIS and other similar tools; and a valid Ohio Driver's License and an acceptable driving record.

Position description and application are available on the County's website www.co.knox.oh.us/jobs or can be obtained by contacting epmarth@ecr.net or at 117 East High Street, Suite 161 in Mount Vernon, OH 43050. Completed applications with attached resumes must be returned to the above address on or before **February 1, 2008**. EOE.

ENGINEER

The Union County Engineer is currently accepting applications for an Engineer position. This position requires a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering (preferably civil) from an ABET accredited program with an Engineering Intern designation and the ability to obtain an Ohio Professional Engineer's license.

This engineering position may include tasks such as hydraulic modeling/drainage calculations, bridge design, roadway design, building plan review, wastewater design, AutoCAD drafting, subdivision plan review, construction inspection, project management and other civil engineering related duties.

This is an unclassified salaried position. Compensation will be commensurate with the successful candidate's qualifications. An application for employment is available at the Engineer's Office or by visiting our website

(<http://www.co.union.oh.us>). Deadline for the submission of an application and resume is **February 8, 2008**. Submissions may be mailed or emailed (in a .pdf format) to the Union County Engineer, County Office Building, 233 West Sixth Street, Marysville, OH 43040, (937) 645-3018 or email engineer@co.union.oh.us. EOE.

DOG WARDEN

Putnam County is seeking to fill position of Dog Warden. Responsibilities include: Enforcing laws for licensing and control of dog populations, investigating and resolving complaints and claims about dogs, picking up stray dogs, overseeing the dog shelter and performing other duties as assigned and/or required by law. Qualifications include: Must have high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, and ability to read road maps, knowledge of dog behavior, dog laws, and safe practices when handling dogs; ability to verbally communicate, keep written records, and maintain positive public relations. Applicant must be able to qualify with a firearm. Salary DOQ. Putnam County is Equal Opportunity Employer. Send resume to: Putnam County Commissioners' Office, 245 E. Main Street – Suite 101, Ottawa, OH 45875. Deadline is **February 1, 2008**. EOE.