

MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Newsletter

144 N. Broadway St.

Medina, OH 44256

(330) 722-9208

www.co.medina.oh.us

[Board of Medina County Commissioners](#)



Adam Friedrich
(President of the Board)

afriedrick@medinaco.org

Patricia G. Geissman

pgeissman@medinaco.org

Stephen D. Hambley

shambley@medinaco.org

[What's Happening - 3/18/13](#)

.Appointments

.Commissioners appointed Todd Gerber to the Public Defender Commission.

.Clarification (last week's article)

.The HazMat Team is one aspect of response within the Medina County All-Hazards Team.

.Submit Your Ideas

.The Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission (OCMC) was established to study the Ohio Constitution, consider problems, promote an exchange of suggestions, and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The public is being asked to submit suggested changes, hot topic issues that need to be addressed, and items that they believe should be added to the Ohio Constitution. Please submit your ideas to www.ocmc.ohio.gov.

[Upcoming Events](#)

Parenting Matters Workshop

For parents of children ages birth-5 to build self-esteem, discipline, and communication. Six consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning April 9 and ending May 14, 6-8 p.m. at the OSU Extension Office, 120 W. Washington St., Medina. Cost is \$30 per individual or couple and includes the textbook. Pre-register by March 22 at kroft.3@osu.edu or 330-725-4911, ext. 117.



"Spring is the time of plans and projects."
Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) Writer

Commissioners' Contact:

Pam Vereb, Clerk (330) 722-9208
pvereb@medinaco.org

Email Pam to Subscribe

Medicaid Expansion Proposal

Mike Jenks, Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health (ADAMH) Board Director, presented information on the proposed expansion of Medicaid, its local implications, and why his board supports the governor's bold proposal on the table now. Around April 18, they will know if it will be the same or a modified proposal, or pulled from the state budget and put in a separate bill. Currently, Medicaid is a complex and cumbersome program. The proposal is to have individuals go on Medicaid and be able to access those services if their income is up to 138% of the federal poverty level (\$15,400 a year for an individual and \$26,300 for a family of three). For Medina County, that would mean about 5,000 individuals would become newly eligible to be on Medicaid. Traditionally with Medicaid, the federal government pays around 60% of the service cost and the state picks up the other 40%. In addition to state and local governments, employers and taxpayers end up paying for the health care of uninsured Ohioans and preventative healthcare is virtually non-existent. In the expansion model, the federal government would pick up the entire cost for the first couple of years and it would transition down to about 90% by 2020. Extending Medicaid would provide access to healthcare and mental health and substance abuse services to a greater number of Medina County citizens. It would also free up dollars for the entity that is currently paying for those services and increase revenue at the state and county levels by virtue of the sales tax that would be generated by the services that are performed. At a fundamental level, it would change the lives of many people because they would be getting the services they need to make them healthier and happier citizens and more productive employees.

Medina County Building Department Nomination

There are 260 jurisdictions certified to administer the Ohio Building Code and 262 jurisdictions certified to administer the Residential Code of Ohio. The Ohio Board of Building Standard's Award announced that the award for the outstanding building department went to the City of Delaware; however, the Medina County Building Department was one of the 19 nominees. They should be proud of the level of service they provide as reflected in being nominated by the stakeholders (architects, engineers, contractors, and building owners).

Land Bank

Commissioner Steve Hambley reported on the recent very productive land bank meeting where some representatives from the local entities reviewed tax delinquent properties that had gone into, or were in the process of, sheriff and auditor sales. Parcels of land were identified that could provide business expansion and other opportunities. In response to the worst housing crisis in U.S. history, a number of counties in the state have adopted a tool called land banking as a means of facilitating the return of vacant, abandoned, and tax-foreclosed properties to productive economic use. A county land bank is a special community improvement corporation (not a county agency), quasi-governmental, and committed to public purpose. They take ownership of properties and clear title, assemble parcels for development, community gardens, green space, and city parks, and manage properties until redevelopment can begin. Also discussed was tightening up subdivision regulations to make homeowner association agreements a much more solid commitment to pay taxes.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts New Focus

SWCD District Manager Jeff Van Loon announced that potential phosphorous generators in Medina County are its 49 permitted waste water treatment systems, 14,130 off-lot discharge septic systems, thousands of acres of lawns, gardens, and cropland that are fertilized, and hundreds of acres of pastures and livestock operations with manure on them. That is where the phosphorous generally comes from that either goes to the Ohio River or Lake Erie. Reducing the phosphorous runoff will be a major focus in Ohio now and in the future with new legislation and programs being introduced.