

MADISON COUNTY

Vol. 1 Issue 1

The Official Newsletter

April 2023



A Message from the Commissioners

Welcome to the inaugural Madison County Newsletter presented by Commissioners Mark Forrest, Tony Xenikis, and Chris Wallace.

As your Commissioners, we want to provide you with both current and upcoming information about what is happening in Madison County. Each month we will feature updates from the commissioners' departments, other elected official departments, community spotlights, and more.

We also invite you to attend our general session meetings on Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m. to learn more about the current work of your Board of Madison County Commissioners. This month, we are introducing information about the expansion of transportation services in Madison County through a partnership with Fayette County Transportation.

Additionally, County Auditor Jennifer Hunter, is providing information about the Madison County Triennial Update for 2024, which is the update of all county property values. We hope you find this newsletter to be an informative way to stay in touch with your county commissioners.



Xenikis



Wallace



Forrest

THIS MONTH

- Triennial Update - Auditor's Office
- Transportation Expansion
- Sheriff's Office - New SRO at Madison-Plains
- Medicaid Changes

Commissioners Office

1 N Main Street
London, OH 43140

P: 740-852-2972

F: 740-845-1660

E: commissioners@madison.oh.gov

M-F: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.





Jennifer Hunter, Auditor

AUDITOR'S OFFICE: TRIENNIAL UPDATE FOR 2024

The Auditor's Office is ordered by the Ohio Department of Taxation to conduct a reappraisal of values every six years, with an update every three years between. Madison County is currently in the process of updating values. Real estate sales of comparable properties and other factors will be examined before a value is assessed to the property.

These new tentative values will be submitted to the state for final approval. These updated values will go into effect in calendar year 2024.

The County Auditor, under state orders, determines property values. My office does not set taxation levels. Those levels are set by the state or approved by local voters when they pass tax levies. Most people don't enjoy paying taxes, and I certainly can empathize with that.

Higher property values, which are borne out by local real estate sales levels, say that Madison County is an attractive place to live. People take good care of their homes and take pride in their properties. The good investment that they have made in their property is reflected as the value of the property increases. For most of us, real estate is our largest investment, and we want it to increase in value.

The increased taxes that come from school and other levies also reflect local priorities. Madison County people are generous. They routinely pass levies to support schools, programs for senior citizens and those with disabilities. That can mean higher property taxes but it also means a better standard of living for our people. I hope we all want to live in an area where children, elderly, and the disabled are cared for and cared about.

This is a challenging and complex topic, and if my office can help answer any further questions, please give us a call at (740) 852-9717.

MADISON COUNTY TO EXPAND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

A partnership between Madison and Fayette counties will soon allow workers without transportation an option for how to get back and forth to work.

David Kell, assistant county administrator, said after talking with community leaders, businesses expressed the biggest need.

"So far, the response with the biggest need for transportation is in West Jefferson, Mount Sterling and London," he said.

He added this first rollout of the Fayette-Madison County Transportation Services would target areas that have expressed the biggest need for transportation, but the county is exploring needs for transportation in all communities and townships within the county.

Susan Thompson, superintendent of Madison County Board of DD, echoed those comments, stating transportation has been a topic of conversation for some time.



Officials working on the project from left: Joy Stanforth, Fayette County director of transit; Robin Bruno, director of Madison County DJFS; Kell and Thompson.

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“Every time we do any of the surveys or community outreach, transportation is at the top of the list,” she said. “We talked with Fayette County and they have a system in place that really works so we thought we could join forces.”

The initiative was made possible by a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation. The grant would match dollars at the local level which would be a combination of money from employers and a small fare from riders - \$1 or less, officials said.

“Work is still in progress but all the money will go to meeting the needs of our residents,” Thompson added.

Details are still being worked out but the plan would be for a rollout this summer. In addition to transportation to and from work, the service would also take residents to places such as the grocery store, hair appointments and other errands. It will also be done in conjunction with Madison County Ride, though it will not travel out of the county or to doctor visits.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: MADISON-PLAINS HAS FIRST SRO



Sheriff John Swaney

For the first time ever, Madison-Plains has a school resource officer in the district. Sheriff John Swaney said this school year was the first one that his office was able to send a deputy to the district.

“Plains saw an opportunity and approved a budget that would allow for this and we came up with a program that would work and put it together,” he said. The Sheriff’s Office has worked with districts in the county previously, but Swaney said this is the first time, aside from elementary school D.A.R.E programs, that the department has been able to put a regular SRO in the district.

“It has worked out really well. This gives the district a deputy and allows him to stay active and in the game,” he said. “It really helps to be able to put somebody in there with that type of experience.”

The SRO is a retired officer with more than 25 years of experience, Swaney said. He added while this is the only program of its kind from his office in the county, he hopes it can translate to other districts if they ask for more presence from the Sheriff’s Office.

“I think we have something really good here and the great thing about it is it should be able to translate across the county to meet the needs of whoever needs it,” he said. “It’s been a great partnership and program. We support it, the commissioners support it and it’s really worked out.”

Swaney said with one school year almost finished, he’s excited to see what the next ones offer.

News from our offices...

CHANGES TO MEDICAID

Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (CAA) the continuous coverage provision that prohibited states from disenrolling members from Medicaid will expire. Starting with Medicaid renewals due in April 2023, Ohio Medicaid will resume its routine eligibility and enrollment operations. This means that all eligible Medicaid members will need to have their Medicaid coverage renewed.

Changes and steps:

Keep your contact information up to date with the Madison County Department of Job and Family Services (MCDJFS). When it's time to renew, or if Medicaid needs more information to continue your coverage, the MCDJFS sends a letter. Make address changes by logging on to benefits.ohio.gov or by calling 1-844-640-6446. Help is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Medicaid members are encouraged to: check your mail and respond to requests for information from MCDJFS. While some renewals can be completed without a need to contact the member, some renewals will require members to respond to mail. If you receive a letter stating that it is time to renew, or that the MCDJFS needs more information, you should respond right away. The MCDJFS needs to hear from you to review your Medicaid eligibility. If you do not respond to renewal letters or requests for information, you risk losing coverage even if you still meet the eligibility criteria for Medicaid. To renew your coverage:

There are multiple ways to renew your coverage:

- In-person at or by mail to the MCDJFS office. You can find contact information for MCDJFS by choosing your county from the dropdown at medicaid.ohio.gov/dropdown.
- Over the phone by calling the County Shared Services at 1-844-640-6446. Agents are available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.
- Online at benefits.ohio.gov only if you have already created a Self-Service Portal account. Otherwise, you must submit the renewal through one of the methods listed above. Even if you can't complete your renewal in the Self-Service Portal, you can still use your account to report changes and upload documents.

Additional resources:

You can manage your Medicaid account, complete renewals, upload documents, and find out the status of your coverage by logging into your Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal account at benefits.ohio.gov.

You can call 1-844-640-6446. Assistance is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

Duties of County Commissioners

County commissioners are elected for four-year terms. Two are elected the year of the presidential election and one the year of the gubernatorial election. County commissioners are the general administrative body for the county government, appropriating and purchasing authority. They hold title to county property. They hold and adjudicate hearings on such matters as county zoning and county drainage petitions. They appoint other directors: Job and Family Services, IT, Building and Zoning, etc. They appoint certain other boards: planning commission, zoning boards, etc. The major powers of the county commission may be found in ORC 307.



YOU'RE INVITED!



community

BABY SHOWER

HOSTED BY THE MADISON COUNTY
HEALTHY CHILD AND FAMILY
CONSORTIUM

raffle items, food, resources, and more!

APRIL
WEDNESDAY 12 AT 5:30 PM
2023

MT STERLING COMMUNITY CENTER
164 E MAIN ST, MT STERLING, OH
43143

RVSP BY APRIL 5TH AT:
SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/588VGV5
OR CALL (740) 852-3068