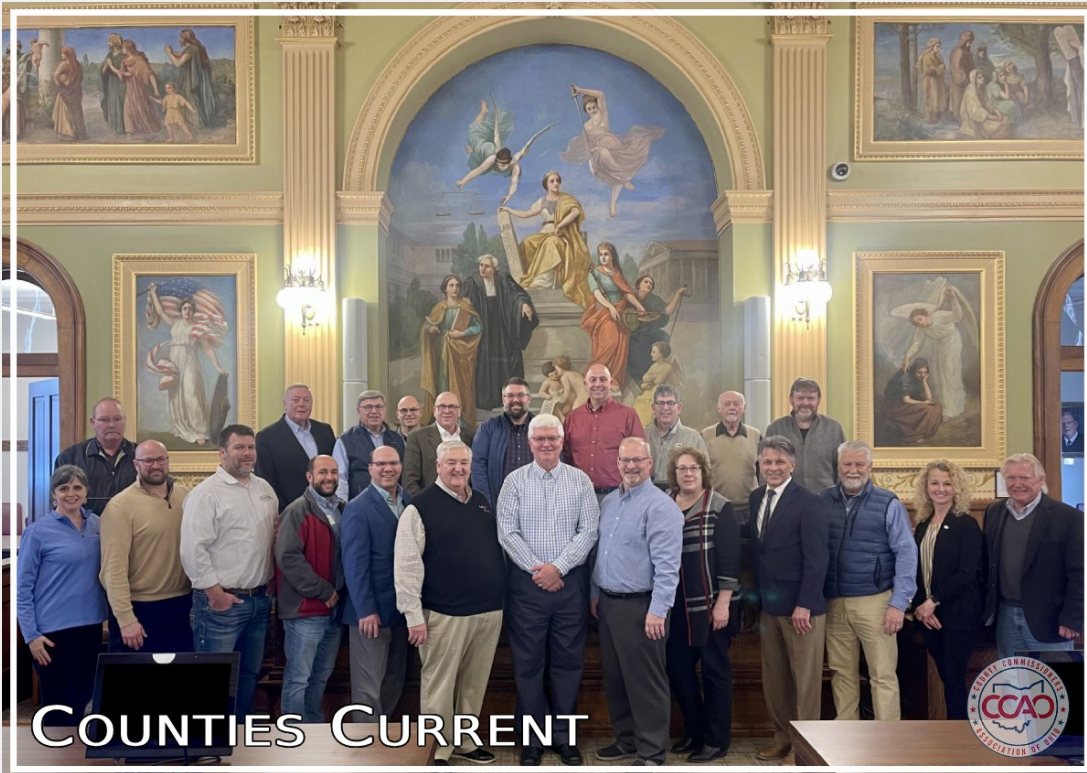


# COMMISSIONERS CORNER



Sandusky County, Ohio

April 2024



Pictured above: Commissioner Miller leading the CCAO/CEAO meeting for the last time as a President.

Pictured left: CCAO/CEAO members.

Commissioners Miller, Schwochow, Zimmerman and County Engineer, Carlos Baez attended the Commissioners and Engineers of Northwest Ohio meeting on March 25th, in Fulton County to share the happenings of their counties.

They received updates from the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO) and the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) which included a policy update on the Public Works Commission and the future need to renew the popular infrastructure program.

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME CELESTIAL EVENT

The much anticipated April 8th solar eclipse is fast approaching. This eclipse is set to be the longest totality on land for over a decade and we can expect eclipse-chasers from around the world to visit the path of totality. Totality duration will be 3 minute and 38.4 seconds beginning at 3:11:47 PM

Although the 2024 solar eclipse is set to be a major event, it won't be the only phenomenon visible in the sky that day. Planets Venus and Jupiter will be visible during the eclipse along with the "Devil's Comet," which passes the earth once every 71 years.

Take a look at the attached Downtown Fremont, Ohio Solar Eclipse 2024 Schedule of Events flyer for scheduled from April 6th through April 8th.

Many other surrounding communities may also have special events scheduled for the eclipse window. Here are several websites you may want to visit:

<https://www.shoresandislands.com/solar-eclipse/#events>,

[https://tockify.com/sccvb/pinboard?  
tags=Eclipse&search=eclipse](https://tockify.com/sccvb/pinboard?tags=Eclipse&search=eclipse)

**ENJOY & BE SAFE!!**



# SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPEMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMISSIONER APPRECIATION

The Board of Developmental Disabilities presented the Commissioners with a gift basket expressing their appreciation for the support they provide to their organization and the Special Olympics.

Jim's enthusiasm for bowling and the Special Olympics was very evident during their visit.



Pictured: County Administrator, Theresa Garcia, Jim and Self-Advocacy and Special Olympics Coordinator, Ed McClain.



*Your Support has made us  
Stronger Together*

*Thank You!*

*Thank you for your support of SCBDD  
and Special Olympics! Enjoy DD  
awareness month!*



## EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATIONS



Pictured: Commissioner Zimmerman, Alivia Ernsberger and Commissioner Miller.

Commissioners Miller and Zimmerman presented Alivia Ernsberger with a proclamation acknowledging her Eagle Scout achievement during her ceremony on March 17th.

Alivia is a sophomore at Fremont Ross High School and has been an active member of BSA Troop 9370 (one of three all-female troops in the Erie Shores District) for five years.

She has earned 37 Merit Badges, camped more than 75 nights, hiked over 164 miles, and has given 101 hours of service to her community.

Alivia was inducted into the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood in August 2023 and was recently appointed Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

For her Eagle Scout project, Alivia revitalized the pond behind the Nature Center at the Ottawa County National Wildlife Refuge.

**CONGRATULATIONS on becoming the first  
female Eagle Scout in Sandusky County!**

Commissioners Miller and Schwochow attended the grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Buckeye Community School (BCS) located at 401 S. Front Street, in downtown Fremont.

BCS came into being when a group of passionate educators decided to create a school where kids who were not being served well by traditional high schools could find a way to earn a high school diploma, therefore setting them up for future success. BCS serves students ages 14-21 in mid and central Ohio, with locations in Fremont, London, Mansfield and Marion.

BCS is a public school with an alternative learning environment—what that really means is they are innovative, creative and compassionate about getting kids through high school.

They offer an alternative approach to traditional high school that is individualized based on each student's unique needs and interests. Students work at their own pace, choose their own path to graduation, and can work around their schedule. They provide opportunities for students to prepare for future careers, college, and training programs while earning their diploma.

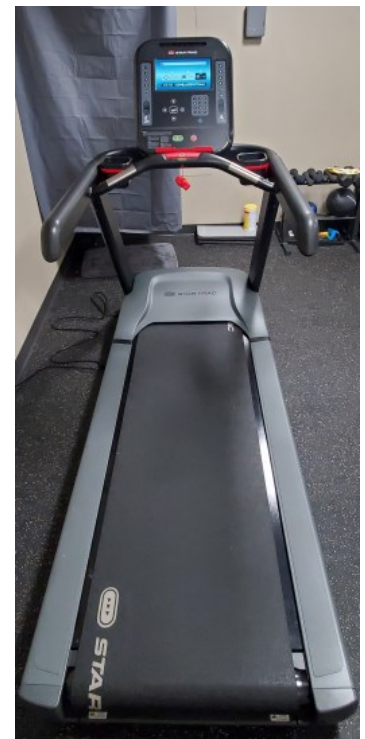


## COURTHOUSE FITNESS ROOM UPDATE

Good news for our fitness enthusiasts! A new Star Trac treadmill has been delivered to the fitness room in the basement of the Courthouse. The manual is located in the small filing cabinet under the TV (the monitor is not a touchscreen).

The Nordic Track on the other end of the room has been repaired.

Please contact Ian Cantu at extension 6101 if there are any issues with the machines. We want all of the machines to be fully functioning and safe to use.



# 2024 SOLAR ECIPSE UPDATE

Lisa Kuelling, Director of Sandusky County EMA, received recognition and appreciation from the Chamber of Commerce for presenting at their Chamber's On the Menu event.

Lisa's Solar Eclipse Preparation presentation shared how businesses can prepare for the upcoming eclipse in Sandusky County on April 8th.

She discussed lessons learned from the 2017 partial eclipse including challenges and business opportunities.



## Protecting Our Furry Loved Ones



During the solar eclipse, consider leaving your pets indoors. Not only could the sun damage their eyes, but the abrupt change in light can scare some animals. Many pets react in much the same way as they would during fireworks or a thunderstorm.



- ◆ During the path of totality, observers will see the Moon completely cover the Sun.
- ◆ The temperature will drop about 10 degrees Fahrenheit depending on the humidity and cloud cover at your location.
- ◆ Totality is the only phase of the eclipse that you can view with your naked eye, but this is not recommended.
- ◆ The Sun's surface is so bright that if you stare at any portion of it, no matter how small, it produces enough light to damage individual retinal cells. It takes a few seconds for this to happen, but afterward, you will see a spot as big as the solar surface you glimpsed when you look away from the Sun at some other scenery. Depending how long you gazed at the Sun and how badly the retinal cells were damaged, this spot will either fade away in time or remain permanent.
- ◆ Keep in mind that small children and animals are also at risk, so ensure they are protected as well.



- ◆ The first spring flowers are typically lilacs, irises, lilies, tulips, daffodils, and dandelions.
- ◆ During the spring, birds are more vocal as they sing to attract mates and warn away rivals.
- ◆ Tornadoes are most common in the spring.
- ◆ It doesn't always rain more in April, but it rains more often.
- ◆ Smells are stronger in the spring. The extra moisture not only helps keep scents in the air longer, but it also makes it easier for you to smell them.
- ◆ Studies show that babies born in the spring are more likely to be night owls and optimistic.
- ◆ The reason why we have spring (and other seasons) is because of the Earth's tilt. If the Earth were perfectly perpendicular to the sun, the seasons or hours of daylight would not change.
- ◆ "Spring Fever" may be real. Scientists believe that longer days cause people to be more active, creative, and happy..

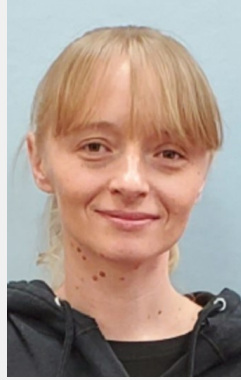
## MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES



Danny Collins  
Sheriff



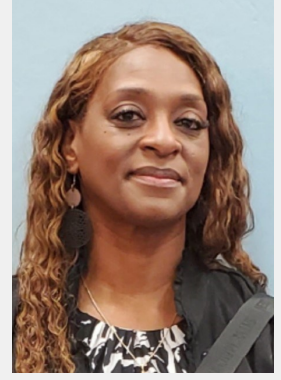
Jason Young  
Board of DD



Misty Gibson  
Dog Kennel



Raye Kraus  
Sheriff



Donna DeLeon  
Auditor



Kristi Beall  
DJFS



Mike Szabo  
Regional Planning



### **POLICY 4.20 REMINDER** **Vacation Cash Out, Personal Leave** **and Longevity**

## SACRED HEART APPRECIATION

The Commissioners received a basket of snacks and thank you letters written by students showing their appreciation for everything that the Commissioners do for our community.

The children beautifully decorated their thank you notes and wrote very kind word of appreciation.

The Commissioner's were touched by this kind gesture.

### A BIG THANK YOU TO SACRED HEART!



Full-time employees who accrue vacation time per Section 4.01, Vacation Leave:

After successfully completed two (2) years of continuous service with the County, all full-time employees shall receive one (1) personal day per quarter after completing the two years of service and will receive one personal day each quarter after.

Personal days will be available each January 1st, April 1st, July 1st and September 1st. **These days cannot be accumulated or carried over.**

The employee will receive their regular rate of pay for each personal day used. **Any days not used prior to January 1st each year shall be forfeited. Personal days will not be paid upon separation of employment.**

Personal days must be taken in eight (8) hour increments (7.5 for those scheduled for 7.5 hour work days).

**Visit County Website [sanduskycountyoh.gov](http://sanduskycountyoh.gov)  
Section 4.20 for specific policy details.**

# I.G.N.I.T.E GRADUATION

Sheriff Hilton handed out nine diplomas at the recent Individual Growth, Naturally and Intentionally Through Education (I.G.N.I.T.E.) ceremony on March 20th.

This program is dedicated to eliminating generational incarceration through education by restoring value, hope, and purpose to our incarcerated population.

Several graduates spoke during the ceremony on how this program has impacted their lives. Michael Hill credited this program with turning his life around and he hoped to provide inspiration to other graduates as they return to life after incarceration.

I.G.N.I.T.E. Coordinator, Caren Nemitz, noted that all nine of the male students are enrolled in the GED program and have completed about 100 hours each of the classroom hours. Four of them are now GED test ready. This program also provides hours of mental health, substance abuse, anger and stress management education.

To date, they had over 2,500 participation hours with various volunteer community partners and more than 500 teaching hours. The program now has a sub-

stance abuse teacher through Firelands providing 10 hours a week each week for classes.

Sheriff Hilton closed the ceremony by stating "There's one person you have total control over, yourself." He also stated that he was proud of Michael and everyone in the room.



Pictured Top Left: INGITE Coordinator, Caren Nemitz and Sheriff Hilton handing out a diploma to a graduate.

Pictured Top Right: Sheriff Hilton with former graduate, Michael Hill and guest.

Please Save the Date and Join Us for our  
**Kentucky Derby Gala**  
You are cordially invited to an afternoon at the races.  
A special evening of signature appetizers, specialty drinks,  
live streaming of the derby events, and so much more!

**Save the Date**  
Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 4 PM - 7 PM

For Questions or Ticket Information, Contact Ruth at 567.342.4822

**Mark your calendars and see attached flyer for additional details.**

**EMS BLOOD DRIVE**

Sandusky County EMS will be sponsoring an American Cross blood drive at Terra State Community College Neeley Center located at 2830 Napoleon Road, Fremont OH on Thursday, May 23rd from 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**You MUST register to participate. See attached flyer.**

**EMS CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS**

Sandusky County EMS will be conducting car seat safety checks on Wednesday, May 22nd from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the FUTURE Sandusky County EMS facility located at 1791 East State Street, Fremont OH.

Families can learn about child passenger safety and how to properly install their child's car seat or booster seat while having them inspected by our Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

For event questions, contact Amanda McGinnis at [amcginnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov](mailto:amcginnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov).

**See attached flyer for details.**

# ANNUAL AG BREAKFAST & SHOWCASE

Commissioners Miller and Zimmerman along with County Engineer, Carlos Baez, attended the 2024 Annual AG Breakfast on March 13th, at Ole Zim's Wagon Shed.

The Chamber's Agriculture Committee hosted their first Agri-Business Showcase during the Ag breakfast. Immediately after the breakfast and presentation, all attendees had the opportunity to visit vendor exhibit tables representing various facets of the agricultural industry and promoting career opportunities in agriculture within in Sandusky County.

The showcase offered Future Farmers of America (FFA) students an overview of modern agriculture's diverse and dynamic nature.

The highlight of the breakfast was honoring Mr. Bill Lamalie with the prestigious Farmer of the Year Award. Mr. Lamalie has been farming for 44 years and was acknowledged for demonstrating exceptional dedication, innovation, and contribution to the agricultural sector.

This year's keynote speaker was Tadd Nicholson, Executive Director of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association. He presented on the evolution of ethanol production in Ohio and it's role in renewable energy.

Tyler Kneeskern, President of Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, commented that the Chamber was thrilled to have organized the event that celebrates the vital role of agriculture in our community.

Special recognition was given to those who have made significant contributions to fostering a strong agricultural community in Ohio and the importance of supporting local farmers and agri-businesses to ensure the continued growth and success in the industry.



Pictured above: Commissioners Zimmerman & Miller with AG members.



Pictured above left: Bill Lamalie and Tyler Kneeskern, President and CEO of the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce. Pictured above right: Commissioner Miller and County Engineer, Carlos Baez.



FFA members from Clyde-Green Springs, Fremont, Lakota, Gibsonburg and Old Fort also attended, (pictured below).

FFA member, Ryleigh Sattellee was also one of the presenters during the breakfast.

Picture right: Keynote speaker, Tadd Nicholson.





# RECOGNITION



EMS crews completed Aquatic Emergencies training in March. Crews learned how to appropriately throw ropes to victims using different methods, how to hold manual c-spine in water, how to properly backboard victims in water by two different methods, rescue swimming, and how to utilize pants as floatation devices.

The EMS department sends a HUGE thank you to the YMCA of Sandusky County for allowing them to utilize their pool to conduct their weekly training sessions. They appreciate the opportunity and are thankful for their partnership with the YMCA.



Congratulations to Paramedic Boes and Paramedic Holland for completing a 40 hour course to become certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians (pictured left).

They will join Captain McGinnis to assist with community car seat inspections being conducted on May 22nd. See the attached flyer for details..

The Sandusky County Emergency Medical Service provides a variety of community outreach and educational programs to schools, government agencies and businesses.

They are a clinical learning site for numerous EMS education programs. They respond and work closely with local first responders (both full-time and volunteer) offering resources, training and supplies.

They also work closely with the local and regional hospitals, as well as, surrounding EMS, fire and law enforcement communities maintaining mutual aid relationships with surrounding organizations.

**EMS Chief: Jeff Jackson**  
jjackson@sanduskycountyoh.gov  
**Assistant EMS Chief: Michael McGinnis**  
mmcinnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov  
**Captain EMS: Amanda McGinnis**  
amcinnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!**



## ATTACHED FLYERS

- Downtown Fremont Solar Eclipse 2024 Schedule of Events.
- The 10th Annual Kentucky Derby Gala Event
- EMS Sponsored Blood Drive at Terra State Community College (Neeley Center)
- EMS Sponsored Car Seat Safety Check

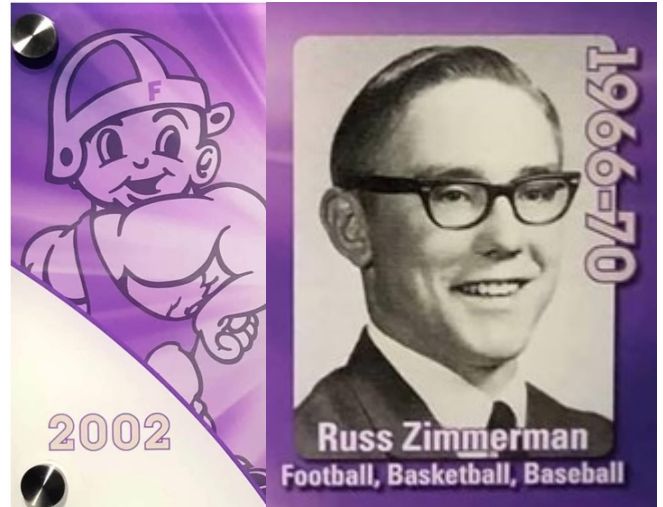
## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 8th - 2024 Total Solar Eclipse & county offices are closed
- April 15th - Tax Day
- May 4th—10th Annual Kentucky Derby Gala
- May 22nd - EMS sponsored Car Seat Safety Checks
- May 23rd - EMS sponsored Blood Drive

**Contact Sandy Gillig if you have upcoming events, deadlines, recognition, or information you would like added to the monthly newsletters.**

**(Distributed the first week of each month.)**

## FLASHBACK



Commissioner Zimmerman was a member of the Fremont Ross Hall of Fame. He participated in football, basketball and baseball.

He entered his second term as Sandusky County Commissioner in 2024 where he proudly represents Sandusky County residents.

## The Sandusky County Commissioners serve as administrators for Sandusky County by:

- Formulating a Multi-million Dollar Budget;
- Approving Purchase Vouchers;
- Negotiating and Approving Union Contracts;
- Pro-active long term planning;
- Handling day-to-day county issues;
- Approving the county road program for the County Engineer;
- Advertising and taking bids on all road, bridge, ditch and sewer projects;
- Implement maintenance on the inside and outside of county buildings;
- Holding hearings to discuss drainage ditch projects, establishing and vacating roads, personnel and equipment needs for county departments, budget and expenses for upcoming county projects; and
- Attend as a Commissioner Representative on 37 Local/Regional/State boards and committees.

**The Commissioner's board meetings are held weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday, commencing at 8:00 a.m. Public forum sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. Evening sessions are held quarterly at 6:00 PM. Generally, all sessions are open to the public and anyone interested in attending the meetings are welcome to do so!**



Sandusky County Commissioners  
622 Croghan Street  
Fremont, Ohio 43420  
(419)334-6100-T  
(419)334-6104-F  
*Commissioners:*

Russ Zimmerman  
Scott Miller  
Charles Schwochow

*Staff:*

Theresa Garcia, County Administrator  
Sandy Gillig, Clerical Specialist  
Ian Cantu, Human Resources  
Traci Myles, Account Clerk

# DOWNTOWN FREMONT, Ohio

## SOLAR ECLIPSE

### 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 6TH 11:00AM - 3:00PM

#### SIP & SHOP

PARTICIPATING DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES

“OVER THE MOON WITH THE MERCHANTS”

APRIL 7TH 4:00PM - 6:00PM

#### MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

DOWNTOWN FREMONT AMPHITHEATER



*Jazzy Ensemble & Co.*

CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE

APRIL 8TH COME DOWN ANYTIME

#### VIEWING STATION

DOWNTOWN FREMONT AMPHITHEATER

#### “LAUNCH PAD”



PLEASE SEE INDIVIDUAL FLYERS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CONTACT US AT:

419-332-8696

567-342-4758

[kbilger@downtownfremontohio.org](mailto:kbilger@downtownfremontohio.org)  
[www.downtownfremontohio.org](http://www.downtownfremontohio.org)

Text *Think Fremont*  
to 44321 to donate & support  
Downtown Fremont, Inc. *Stay Connected*  
315 Garrison Street  
Fremont, Ohio 43420



The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Kentucky Derby**  
GALA

KENTUCKY DERBY®

150 

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**  
4 pm - 7 pm - Neeley Center

Presented by the Council for Developmental Disabilities of Sandusky County

Join us at the Neeley Center on the campus of Terra State Community College and enjoy all of the festivities of the 150<sup>th</sup> running of the Kentucky Derby while supporting those with developmental disabilities in Sandusky County. Live streaming of the events, specialty drinks, signature appetizers, a host of fun activities, and even some surprises! Must be 21 to enter. Tickets just \$50 per person, while they last.

For Questions or Ticket Information, Contact Ruth at 567.342.4822



**The 150<sup>th</sup> Running of the Kentucky Derby**

CHURCHILL DOWNS  LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  MAY 4, 2024



American Red Cross

# BLOOD DRIVE

**THURSDAY  
MAY**

**23rd**

**12 PM - 6 PM**



**MUST REGISTER**

**TERRA STATE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
THE NEELEY CENTER**

2830 Napoleon Road  
Fremont, Oh 43420

SPONSORED BY:



# CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

**Wednesday, May 22nd  
1pm-4pm  
FUTURE: Sandusky County EMS  
1791 East State Street  
Fremont, OH 43420**

Families can learn about child passenger safety & how to properly install their child's car seat or booster seat and have them checked by our Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

**Please bring your car seat and vehicle owner's manual to the event!**

Car seats available for qualifying families.



**Event Questions?**  
Amanda McGinnis  
[amcginnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov](mailto:amcginnis@sanduskycountyoh.gov)