

Meet AshtaBeautiful - page 2



Grant help

Representative from Senator Portman's office presents federal grants program at courthouse.



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Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners
25 West Jefferson St.
Jefferson Ohio 44047



Ashtabula County Insights

July 2017
Volume 1, Issue 5

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Board provides protective gear



Sheriff William Johnson received a supply of nitrile gloves and highly effective masks that county law enforcement officers will use when investigating drug scenes. Commissioners Vice President Kathryn Whittington spearheaded the effort to supply the Sheriff and Coroner's office with the special supplies after learning about the threat from carfentanyl, a synthetic opiate. From left are Johnson, Whittington, Commissioners President Casey Kozlowski and Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV. Story on page 2.

YOUR VOICE

President Kozlowski responds to citizens' questions



Q What is the County Environmental Services Department's policy on adjusting the water bill for pool water?



Nick Sanford, director of Environmental Services, and the Board of Commissioners are working on a draft policy for this issue. We acknowledge that water purchased from the county system for filling a pool usually does not end up in the sanitary sewers. Unfortunately, the sewer portion of the bill is based upon water consumption.

Understandably, consumers do not want to pay for a service they did not receive. Concurrently, withdrawing large amounts of water places additional strain on the delivery infrastructure.

The draft agreement creates a policy and guidelines for a single, annual filling. In most cases, the user will provide the pool dimensions and then certify to the department that the water was used to fill a pool. Irrigation and amusements, such as the "Slip and Slide" toys, would not be eligible. For details, or to obtain an application, please call the department at 576-3722.

Do you have a question for Casey Kozlowski?

Call 576-3750 or email

crkzlowski@ashtabulacounty.us

Ashtabula County INSIGHTS

is published monthly by the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners:
Casey Kozlowski, President
Kathryn Whittington, Vice-President
J.P. Ducro IV

To have Insights delivered via email, send an email to cefeather@ashtabulacounty.us to be added to the mailing list.

The current and previous issues are always available for download from the county's website, ashtabulacounty.us, and the Ashtabula Wave, ashtabulawave.org.

July 2017 meetings

6 9:30 a.m., Commissioners work session
1 p.m., Commissioners agenda meeting

11 10 a.m., Commissioners work session
1 p.m. Commissioners agenda meeting

18 10 a.m., Commissioners work session
1 p.m., Commissioners agenda meeting

25 10:30 a.m., Commissioners work session

25 6:30 p.m. open Q&A public session
7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting

Wayne Township offices
3280 Route 322, Wayne
Joint township/village meeting

Board assists coroner, sheriff with protective equipment

Protecting sheriff's deputies and coroner's investigators on the job is a top priority for the Board of Commissioners, who took extra precautionary measures to that end in June.

With the vast majority of their calls related to drugs, law enforcement officers face the threat of coming in contact with highly toxic substances, such as carfentanil.

Carfentanil has been detected at drug overdose scenes in Ashtabula County. Rich Mongell, investigator for the Ashtabula County Coroner, says eight grams were found in Geneva in May. Mongell says testing for carfentanil or, for that matter any of the other 2,000 possible synthetic drugs involved in an overdose case, is expensive —\$250 to test for each substance. Plus, the coroner has to know what drugs are suspected in order to specify the test.

"We could blow our whole annual budget on one case," Mongell says.

Law enforcement officers are usually the first responders to an overdose or other drug-related call, and therefore at greatest risk for exposure to the toxic heroin-enhancing substances, says Ashtabula County Sheriff William Johnson. An officer who responds to an overdose situation could be exposed to the drugs through inhaling the air in the room or skin contact with a pill or the white powder.

While officers typically use vinyl gloves when they are called to a drug incident, carfentanil is so insidious it can transcend the barrier. Likewise, the typical masks used by officers do not have the degree of filtration necessary to stop airborne carfentanil from entering the air passages. Concurrently, the potential for exposure is all in a day's job for officers.

"Most of the cases we go to are normally drug related," Johnson says. "It's either drugs or money related. I think it is important we



From left, Coroner's Office investigators Rich Mongell and Keith Steward hold supplies provided by commissioners to Coroner Dr. Pamela Lancaster. Commissioners Kathryn Whittington, President Casey Kozlowski and J.P. Ducro IV presented protective equipment to the office on July 6.

protect our own as well as protect the people we are asked protect when we get called out."

Just how bad is this stuff? A synthetic opioid and similar in chemical structure to fentanyl, carfentanil's toxicity is on par with nerve gas. Just 2 mgs of the drug can sedate an African elephant weighing 2,000 pounds. Relatively easy to obtain from China, carfentanil is used by drug dealers to cut their heroin or as a straight substitute. Carfentanil ramps up the effect of heroin while extending the dealer's supply. The combination of heroin and fentanyl/carfentanil has been blamed for hundreds of overdose deaths in the United States and is particularly prevalent in Ohio.

In Carroll County, Maryland, the sheriff's

office recently provided officers with N95 masks, whose filtering system is superior to the bulky, cumbersome gas masks previously issued to officers. And in other counties, officers and coroner investigators are being told to "throw away their vinyl gloves" and use nitrile gloves, instead.

Commissioners' Vice President Kathryn Whittington heard about the situation in Carroll County, Md., from David Warren, Northeast Ohio Regional Field Director.

"After reading the article, I wanted to see if our deputies were equipped with safety equipment that would help protect our officers," Whittington says.

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Discover what makes our county 'AshtaBeautiful'

Looking for a calendar that lists events and activities for Ashtabula County? Check out AshtaBeautiful.org, which serves as a portal to all that is positive about Ashtabula County.

This gateway site provides dozens of links to the websites and Facebook pages of county businesses and nonprofits. Search for a church or a doctor, locate restaurants and recreation opportunities, and even find dozens of volunteer opportunities, interesting tasks you probably never imagined were "volunteer" jobs.

AshtaBeautiful's committee includes Board of Commissioners representation and is sponsored by the Ashtabula Council of Foundations, Ashtabula County Medical Center and LEADERShip Ashtabula County. Have an event to publicize? Use the home page "contact" link.

Board hosts grant session with Sen. Portman rep

State's addiction problems must be addressed at the community level

Commissioners on June 21 hosted a county grant funding workshop with Josh Prest, Northeast District Representative from Sen. Rob Portman's office.

The workshop focused on federal grant funding opportunities to assist Ohio counties and communities in fighting the opioid epidemic. About a dozen health care professionals from Ashtabula and Geauga counties attended the meeting, along with Vice President Kathryn Whittington and Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV.

Prest outlined the various funding resources, including the 21st CURES initiative that was signed into law in 2016. Portman supported the \$6.3 billion medical innovation package that included \$1 billion in new funding for Medicare and Medicaid. Congress authorized another \$1 billion spread over two years to fund state block grants to fight the opioid epidemic.

Additionally, Congress in 2016 passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, that authorized \$181 million in new funding.

Ohio is eligible for up to \$26 million of CURES Act funding in Fiscal Year 2017. The funding will flow to counties through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHA). The department's approach to awarding the money prioritizes Ohio counties with the highest opioid overdose deaths and treatment needs. Ashtabula County ranks high for these factors.



Commissioners Vice President Kathryn Whittington pauses with Josh Prest, Northeast Ohio Representative for Senator Rob Portman, during a grant workshop for Ashtabula and Trumbull counties June 21. Commissioners hosted and attended the workshop.

‘The big focus is on evidence-based programs, things that work.’

Josh Prest

Sen. Rob Portman NEO Rep



The Drug Free Communities Grant is funded by CURES and “works at the local level (to provide) what really is going to stop this epidemic,” Prest said.

The similar philosophy is behind the CARA funding.

“The big focus is on evidence-based programs, things that work,” Prest says.

CARA also includes funding for treatment/recovery and enforcement, such as drug

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Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board federal funding

Program/grant name	Amount received most recent fiscal year	Local Match
Justice Administration	\$45,672	25 percent
Mental Health Screening (county jail)	\$110,020	None required
Drug-Free Communities	\$82,900	100 percent, much of it in-kind
Strong Families/ Safe Communities	\$28,000	None
Residential Substance Abuse (jail)	\$45,758	25 percent

Meet Your Commissioners

Members of the Public and Officials

The Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County cordially invite you to attend a Regional Evening Agenda Session to be held Tuesday, July 25, 2017 in Wayne Township. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. there will be an opportunity to meet with the Board to discuss any issues of importance regarding your community.

The regular session of the Board will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

**WHERE: WAYNE TWP. OFFICES, 3280 SR 322,
WILLIAMSFIELD, OHIO**

DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

TIME: PUBLIC: 6:30P.M. AGENDA: 7:00P.M.



CASEY R. KOZLOWSKI
PRESIDENT



KATHRYN L. WHITTINGTON
VICE-PRESIDENT



J. P. DUCRO IV
COMMISSIONER

**Ashtabula County
Commissioners**

**Contact person:
Lisa Hawkins, Clerk**

**25 West Jefferson Street
Jefferson, OH 44047**

**Phone: 440-576-3750
Fax: 440-576-2344**

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court. Ashtabula County's Common Pleas Drug Court program is in its second decade. The program provides certain offenders with an alternative to jail time.

Yet another funding measure, the STOP Act, addresses the explosive growth of synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and carfentanil in the U.S. China and India are major supplies of these drugs or the chemicals used to produce them in basement labs. Portman's legislation requires shipments from foreign countries through the U.S. postal system to provide electronic advance data on packages before they cross the U.S. border.

Following his overview of the various funding sources available, Prest opened the workshop to questions from the professionals.

"What can we do better?" he asked the attendees, who spent more than a half-hour expressing their thoughts on gaps that need to be closed in order to best use the funding.

Commissioner Whittington said one of her concerns is the lack of infrastructure necessary to the delivery of substance abuse recovery programs in Ashtabula County.

"Our county is in need of dollars that will help build facilities or rehab current structures to meet the standards and licensing for treatment facilities," Whittington says.

Whittington expressed her appreciation for the efforts Portman has put into curbing the epidemic by introducing and supporting legislation that funds community-based programming.

"Working at the community level is really what is going to stop this epidemic," Prest said.

Protect, from page 2

She asked the county's risk manager, Lori Larson, to research the issue with the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation (BWC) and other agencies, in the event protocol has been established for protecting workers. Larson also looked into funding sources to provide upgraded gloves and masks to the Sheriff's Department. She said the county had two sources of funding, a performance bonus from the BWC and a rebate through the Ashtabula Safety Council, that could fund the equipment. The commissioners' participation on the council is one of the factors that determine eligibility for a rebate.

"Our participation in Safety Council has many advantages, and access to these rebate funds is just one of them," Ducro says. "That

is how the program should work, using the funds to reinvest in our employees' safety."

Whittington, Board President Casey Kozlowski and Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV authorized spending \$211.18 from these sources to purchase an initial supply of gloves and masks for Sheriff's Department workers. A second appropriation, made June 20, provided gloves, gowns, goggles and masks for the Coroner's investigators, as well. Coroner Dr. Pamela Lancaster said she and her staff are very appreciative of the contribution to employee safety. The supplies were delivered to the Coroner on July 6.

The Sheriff's supplies—400 pairs of nitrile gloves and 100 masks—were delivered to the department on June 12; Johnson said they would be distributed in a manner that ensures every officer would have access to them.

"This is greatly appreciated," Johnson said.

Having the personal protective equipment available will "make sure nobody gets a surprise" when they respond to a call where the substances have contaminated the environment. Johnson says responders who typically arrive on a scene later, such as the Coroner or emergency medical services, already have protective gear in their arsenal and are alerted to the presence of hazards by the law officers.

Mongell says their department's budget allowed only for simple surgical masks that would not stop airborne carfentanil from being inhaled by an investigator. He says the substance could get on the investigator's clothing at the scene or in the morgue, further endangering the worker.

The board's appropriations and subsequent purchase of supplies will address these concerns for employee safety when dealing with drug-related cases.

DRUG ADDICTION AFFECTS ALL OHIOANS

Know the warning signs



Know the facts:

- Heroin and other opiates kill at least 23 people in Ohio every week.
- Opiate pain pills, fentanyl, and heroin are all opioids.
- One in five Ohio residents knows someone struggling with heroin addiction.
- Naloxone is a medication used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

Know the signs of opioid abuse or addiction:

- Sudden dramatic weight loss
- Changes in expected emotional response and rapid mood swings
- Dramatic changes in sleep patterns
- Constipation without reasonable explanation
- Small or pinpoint pupils
- Unexplained missing personal items and money

Know the symptoms of opioid overdose:

- Bluish nail beds and lips, pale or grayish skin tone
- Noisy and irregular breathing, respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest

Know where to get assistance for you or your loved one:

If you suspect an overdose, call 911. For nonemergency assistance, call the Ashtabula County Hopeline at **1-800-577-7849** or the Ashtabula County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board at **440-992-3121**, or visit **www.ashtabulamhrsboard.org**.



MIKE DEWINE
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ashtabula County
Mental Health and
Recovery Services Board