

# It's Fair Time

Commissioners to hold meeting at Expo Center Aug. 8.

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Barn Quilts Trail featured in Log Cabin during Fair Week.

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# Fee proposed

Up to \$5 could be added to each improved-property tax duplicate to fund Solid Waste District programs. Public hearings are this month.

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



# Ashtabula County Insights

August 2017  
Volume 1, Issue 6

## Commissioners meet the challenge *Story on page 2*



## YOUR VOICE

President Kozlowski responds to citizens' questions



**Q** How do commissioners ensure that child support agreements and responsibilities are upheld by parents?



Child Support Enforcement comes under the Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services. Commissioners recognize the essential work of this department by serving as the conduit for funding and supporting the department.

August is Child Support Enforcement Awareness Month, and the board on Aug. 1 issued a proclamation declaring the month as such in Ashtabula County.

Statistics and experience alike recognize that there is a huge expense that comes with raising children and the financial burden placed upon the custodial parent.

"The Commissioners are committed to making sure that every child in Ashtabula County has the financial and family support that is necessary to help them grow and thrive in life," Kozlowski says. "We certainly applaud the essential work of this department that helps to make this possible."

Do you have a question for Casey Kozlowski?

Call 576-3750 or email

[crkzlowski@ashtabulacounty.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://ashtabulacounty.us), and the Ashtabula Wave, [ashtabulawave.org](http://ashtabulawave.org).

## AUGUST 2017 meetings

**1** 10 a.m., Commissioners work session  
1 p.m., Commissioners agenda

**8** 10 a.m., Commissioners work session  
1 p.m. Commissioners agenda  
**Expo Building, Fairgrounds**

**15** 10:30 a.m., Commissioners work session  
1:00 p.m., Commissioners agenda

**22** 10 a.m., Commissioners work session  
1 p.m., Agenda meeting

**29** 6:30 p.m. open Q&A public session  
7:00 p.m. Agenda Meeting  
**Windsor Township offices**  
5159 SR 86 & 534, Windsor

# Board, staff explore Lake Erie Canopy Tours

Commissioners and several staff members did a test run of the Lake Erie Canopy Tours challenge course at the Lodge and Conference Center on July 14, about a week prior the course's opening to the public.

The \$2-million project is owned and funded by Delaware North Corp. and is on state park property leased by the county for the tourism-building attraction. Commissioner J.P. Ducro IV, who has completed challenge courses at other tourist destinations, described the GOTL course as "brilliantly designed and a fitting addition to both the state park and The Lodge."



At top, Eric Frantz, general manager of The Lodge, begins the tour of the course for Board President Casey Kozlowski and Vice President Kathryn Whittington.



At far left, Mrs. Whittington negotiates one of the challenges on the course.



At left, Commissioner J.P. Ducro comes in for a landing on one of the short zip line segments that are part of the course, now open to the public.

## Don't miss these events at the 2017 Ashtabula County Fair

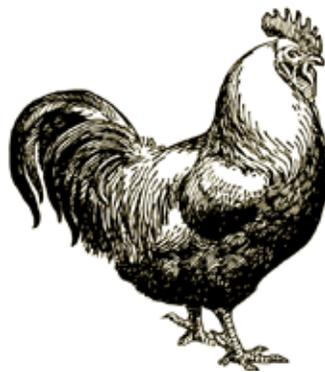
The weekly agenda meeting of the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners moves to the Expo Building at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds on Aug. 8.

If you have ever wondered what goes on at these meetings but didn't want to venture up the stairs, or elevator, to the second-floor meeting room at 25 West Jefferson St., this is an opportunity to experience a session in an informal setting.

The meeting gets under way at 1 p.m. Stick around until 2 p.m. and you can watch the county's Land Bank board conduct its meeting at the Expo Building, as well.

Here are a few more "must experience" events/attractions at this year's fair, which opens Aug. 8 and closes Aug. 13.

- **Bucket of Junk contest.** What can be made from a bucket full of junk? That's the challenge presented by Northeast Auto Recyclers and Roger Butler



Excavating to creative entrants in this contest. The entrant picked up a bucket containing the junk, then had to weld, bolt, glue and/or wire it all together into something recognizable and unique. See the results in the FFA building.

- **Garden in a Wheelbarrow contest.** A

new competition this year, the garden wheelbarrows must be filled with live plants. Check them out in the FFA building.

- **Truck show.** Do you like trucks? Check out the newest and oldest working semi-tractors, the best lighted truck and the cleanest pickup, among other categories. The open truck show is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 13.
- **Bicycle races.** Watch cyclists pedal for a ½ mile in the open event, or for 20 yards (tot trikes) in this opening-day event held in front of the grandstand. Races get under way at 11 a.m.; also look for the decorated bike contest.
- **Arts and Craft Show.** Hand-made items only highlight this one-day, Aug. 8, event in the area west of the grandstand. Booths open at 10 a.m. and close at 4 p.m.

## Public hearings focus on proposed charge to fund expansion of the county's Solid Waste District collection, recycling efforts

Five public hearings on a proposed new rate/charge upon each improved parcel of real property in Ashtabula County are scheduled for August.

The hearing locations, times and dates are listed to the right. Note that a hearing in Wayne Township was held July 25.

The Ashtabula County Solid Waste Policy Committee recommended to commissioners that a rate and charge of up to \$5 (annually) per improved parcel be implemented to fund a variety of programs for the district. Possible programs include:

- Annual household hazardous waste collection event;
- Annual tire amnesty collection event;
- Drop-off recycling locations throughout Ashtabula county;
- School and public education and awareness;
- Illegal dump cleanup funds;
- Community recycling or cleanup grants;
- Environmental enforcement.

### Financing solid waste districts

Ohio's solid waste districts were established by law in 1988 to ensure sufficient waste disposal capacity and to reduce dependence on landfills by providing recycling opportunities.

Funding options for the districts include tier fees, generation fees, designation fees, contract fees, general revenue and rates and charges.

Since 1993 Ashtabula County has opted for the tier-fee mechanism. This rate, set at \$2 per ton of waste disposed in municipal landfills within Ashtabula County, has not been increased since implementation.

Meanwhile, the amount of solid waste being presented at landfills has gone down, and with it the funding. Indeed, every other funding

Aug. 7, 5 p.m.  
**Ashtabula City Council Chambers**  
4717 Main Ave., Ashtabula

Aug. 14, 5 p.m.  
**Geneva City Council Chambers**  
44 N. Forest St., Geneva

Aug. 15, 1:30 p.m.  
**Ashtabula County Commissioners**  
25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson

Aug. 28, 5 p.m.  
**Conneaut City Council Chambers**  
294 Main St., Conneaut

Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m.  
**Windsor Township Office**  
5159 SR 534, Windsor

Written comments will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2017, at:  
**Ashtabula County Solid Waste District, 25 West Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047.**  
Questions? 576-3750

option, with the exception of county general revenue funds, is tied to tons of solid waste disposed. Commissioners are concerned that raising the generation, contract or designation fees would hurt large waste generators and potentially cause the loss of jobs in the county because large employers, such as healthcare and industrial manufacturing, would have to bear the brunt of any increases in these fees. But

households also would suffer because the waste haulers, who have to pay the fee at the disposal site, would have to raise their rates. And the increase likely would be more than the proposed rate and charge.

### Rates/changes option

The rates/charges option provides a stable funding mechanism unaffected by reductions in the waste disposed. Key points of the mechanism are:

- An improved parcel is defined as having one or more permanent, portable or temporary buildings;
- If established, the rate/charge is certified to the County Auditor, who adds it to the duplicate against the parcel;
- The rate/change would supplement existing funding.

If commissioners adopt the rates/changes option, an estimated \$170,000 will be generated annually for Solid Waste District programs. If the funding is approved by Sept. 1, 2017, the expanded recycling program and special collection events will be scheduled for the spring of 2018. Even if your community already has curbside recycling, you will benefit from the proposed rates/charges option because the funding would provide household hazardous waste and tire collection events not provided by your hauler. Further, your community would be eligible for priority to the Community Grant program for extra recycling/cleanup funds.

Board of Commissioners President Casey Kozlowski encourages property owners to attend the meetings and weigh-in on the proposal.

## County's barn quilt trail will have information in the Century Log Cabin during fair week

The Ashtabula County Barn Quilts Trail Steering Committee will have an exhibit, information and presentations in the Century Log Cabin during Fair Week. Volunteers, including barn quilt owners, will staff the building from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. The presentation is 5 p.m.

The county's barn quilt trail has grown rapidly since the first barn quilt went up on the Blakeslee Log Cabin Barn in Plymouth Township just 38 months ago. "We are closing in on having 100 barn quilts," says trail co-founder and quilter Kathy McCarty. "We are an all-volunteer steering committee that is driven by a passion for giving tourists another reason to visit our county while beautifying our countryside."

The barn quilts tell a story about a family, farm or business. One of the most stunning quilts on the trail symbolically tells the story of the Housel farm on Simon Road South. Another barn quilt, across the

road, honors the late Chris Angerman, co-founder of the trail.

There will be photos of the county's most stunning barns and barn quilts displayed in the log cabin, and a daily Power Point presentation will tell the story of the trail through pictures and discussion. Carl Feather, lodging tax administrator for the county and a member of the steering committee will give the presentation and be on hand to discuss the tourism impact of the barn quilts.

The Log Cabin is located in the rides area of the fairgrounds and near the east entrance. There are two barn quilts on the floral (octagonal) building, plus four agriculture-related barn quilts at the west entrance.

"We are so appreciative of the commissioners loaning Carl to the trail, and also to the Fair Board for hosting our program and exhibit," McCarty says. "Barn Quilts are a perfect fit for the fair and county."

## ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*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, August 29, 2017 in Windsor 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: WINDSOR TWP. OFFICES, 5159 SR 86 & 534,  
WINDSOR, OHIO 44099**

**DATE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017**

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



CASEY 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**

**FUTURE MEETING: SEPT. 26, 2017 AT DORSET TWP.**

**Don't be  
left out,  
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emergency  
notifications**

1. Visit [ashtabulacounty.us](http://ashtabulacounty.us)
2. Look for the SWIFT 911 link, lower right corner of screen.
3. Follow the portal link to "Add/Remove Yourself."
4. Enter your phone, e-mail, text information; get the app.
5. Subscribe or unsubscribe to specific alert types.
6. Get notified by EMA when there's an emergency,
7. And get on with life!

