



MEDINA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12—ISSUE 2

WHY THE SALES TAX?

Current Sales Tax

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| State 5.75% | County .5% |
| Schools .5% | |
| Total 6.75% | |

The most recent tax levied by the Board of Commissioners for general operations was a .5% sales tax implemented 46 years ago. Similar to private companies and other government units, between 2008 and 2010, the County cut its budget by \$4.9 million dollars (12%). In order to balance the budget, the county reduced its workforce through layoffs or attrition by approximately 177 full-time and part-time employees, closed a jail pod, cut capital spending, froze salaries, eliminated a department, and eliminated or froze certain expenses.

Proposed Sales Tax

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| State 5.75% | County .7% |
| Schools .5% | |
| Total 6.95% | |

The county is mandated to provide certain services such as criminal justice services including the Sheriff's Office, court system, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Coroner, etc. The County cannot stop purchasing vehicles for the Sheriff's Office, close the jail, or eliminate the Court of Common Pleas. The cost of operating these services has increased substantially since 2008 due to State mandates and the opioid epidemic. These costs continue to increase and the County is at a point where additional funding is necessary to stay in compliance with State and Federal mandates and provide services necessary to keep the public safe and address the needs of Medina County residents.

The proposed sales tax is specific to criminal justice services and can only be used to cover the cost of operating the courts, Sheriff's Office (including jail operations), and other expenses related to criminal justice services. This will increase the County's sales tax rate from 6.75% to 6.95% - an additional 20¢ on the purchase of a \$100 taxable item. Sales tax is not charged on rent, mortgage payments, groceries, utilities, health and auto insurance, gasoline, and other miscellaneous services and non-taxable items; there will be no additional cost on non-taxable items.

It is estimated that this .2% tax will generate approximately \$5.3 million dollars annually and will be used specifically for criminal justice services. Currently, these expenses are paid from the general operating fund; the greatest resource for that fund are property taxes and the current .5% sales tax. The new .2% sales tax will cover the costs of criminal justice services. This will free up revenues that can be used for senior services, children's services (which also increased due to the opioid epidemic), mental health services, and capital improvements and maintenance of county buildings. If this tax doesn't pass, general operating revenues will continue to be insufficient to cover all of the required State-mandated services and at some point, a property tax will need to be levied.



Adam Friedrick
330-722-9212
afriedrick@medinaco.org



Patricia G. Geissman
330-722-9214
pgeissman@medinaco.org



William F. Hutson
330-722-9211
whutson@medinaco.org

BICENTENNIAL LICENSE PLATE UPDATE

The Medina County Bicentennial license plate passed through all of the necessary legislation. The plates, designed by local graphic artist Judy Barabas, commemorates the 1818 establishment of Medina County. Proceeds from the license plate sales will benefit 18 Medina County historical societies. The plates take 90+ days for production, so they should be ready for sale in March/April.



19TH ANNUAL COMMISSIONERS' CHARITY BALL



The 19th Commissioners' Charity Ball that was held on Saturday, January 20, at Weymouth Country Club was enjoyed by 185 attendees. The primary mission is "to enable our community's agencies to better serve those in our county who are in need, face obstacles that impede their full participation in society, or assist in their educational development." Posting of the Colors by American Legion Post 202 took place, after which Judge Joyce Kimbler delivered an invocation.

Following dinner, presentations of the Commissioners' charity choices for 2018 were made. Pat Geissman selected Lodi Harrisville Historical Society and Robby's Recovery Center, Adam Friedrick chose Medina Health Ministry and Oasis of Hope, and Bill Hutson's share went to Habitat for Humanity and Medina County Historical Society. Each non-profit received \$5,500. The evening concluded with door prizes and dancing to the music of The Element with Bruno Brothers Horns.

The committee that worked to make the event a success was chaired by Commissioner Pat Geissman. She was assisted by Commissioners Adam Friedrick and Bill Hutson, along with Rhonda Beck, Lynda Bowers, Judy Barabas, Brian Feron, Barb Gilbert, Dianne DePasquale-Hagerty, Letha Mapes, Mary Raitano, Stefanie Robinson, and Dave Wadsworth.



If you want to be removed from this mailing or know someone who wants to be added, please notify Clerk Peggy Folk, CAP, OM at 330-722-9210 or at pfolk@medinaco.org.

RIDE FREE ON FEBRUARY 14



Wednesday, February 14, will be celebrated as "Ohio Loves Transit Day" with free rides on all fixed routes. The purpose of the day is to celebrate transit and how it helps to move Ohio forward. Medina County Transit is pleased to be participating. This is a great way to thank existing customers and to entice potential customers to use public transportation. Any what better day than Valentine's Day to show our love?

MEDINA COUNTY PARKS EVENTS

The following are some Medina County Parks' activities. **Please register for programs online at www.medinacountyparks.com.**

Sat., February 3 (1:00-2:00 p.m.) **MEET THE ANIMALS** **Wolf Creek Environmental Center**
Wolf Creek is home to many animals including snakes, turtles, toads, and frogs. Learn about their habits, care, and life histories. All ages. No registration. Free.

Sat., February 10 (1:00-4:00 p.m.) **INTERMEDIATE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY** **Wolf Creek Environmental Center**
Learn about exposure and composition; the meaning and effects of shutter speed, aperture, sensor speed; and much more. Learn to take photographs beyond simple snapshots. Prerequisite for this class is "Introduction to Digital Photography" or have moderate prior experience with digital cameras. Bring your own digital camera with user manual. Ages 16-Adult. Register by February 8. \$35 program fee.

Sat., February 10 (Noon-5:00 p.m.) & Sun., February 11 (Noon-5:00 p.m.) **FOSSILS OF OHIO** **Susan Hambley Nature Center**
See and learn about some of Ohio's fossils. All ages. No registration. Free.

Sat., February 17 (10:00-11:00 a.m.) **FOR THE BIRDS** **Wolf Creek Environmental Center**
Hike through fields and forests to collect valuable information for the Great Backyard Bird Count, a worldwide citizen science project. The hike takes place outside, so dress for the weather. All ages. No registration. Free.

Sat., February 24 (Noon-5:00 p.m.) & Sun., February 25 (Noon-5:00 p.m.) **WHAT'S UP WITH WOODPECKERS** **Susan Hambley Nature Center**
Learn all about woodpeckers through an assortment of games, crafts, and activities. All ages. No registration. Free.

Sun., February 25 (2:00-4:00 p.m.) **PINTEREST PROJECTS: CREATING WITH CRAYONS** **Wolf Creek Environmental Center**
Bits and pieces of crayons seem to multiply! This program will offer a range of projects to repurpose them. Ages 12 and up. Register by February 24. Free.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Every Sunday in February (8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) **ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST** **Lafayette Fire Station 2**
5834 Heather Hedge Dr., Chippewa Lake
The Fire Association hosts a "All You Can Eat" with pancakes, sausage, eggs, bacon, sausage gravy and biscuits, strawberry crepes, juice, and coffee. Adults \$12; seniors, children 6-12, and veterans with ID \$8; children 5 and under free. For more information, email Dave Young at dyoung@lafayettetwpfire.com.

Tue., February 6 (8:00-10:30 a.m.) **A COMMUNITY FORUM** **Pearlview Rehab & Wellness Center**
COMING TOGETHER—CARING TOGETHER **(4426 Homestead Dr., Brunswick)**
It's estimated that 10% of Medina County is comprised of individuals with functional needs. Enjoy breakfast and then learn how to better communicate, respond to, and effectively assist those with functional needs during an emergency. A panel of experts will share their experience working with vulnerable populations such as older adults, and individuals with developmental disabilities, and those with mental health issues. Register with Jessica Miles at 330-662-0517 or jmiles@medinahealth.org.

Sat., February 10 (7:00 p.m.) **SOCK HOP** **Chatham Memorial Hall**
Dress in 50's attire (prizes for best outfits) and dance the night away (dance contest). Enjoy root beer floats, sloppy joes, hot dogs, and chips. \$15 per person (includes food). Benefits Chatham Township Bicentennial Celebration Committee. Contact Sue Arters (330-635-5969) or Sarah Bistline (330-667-2257) for tickets and additional information.

Fri.-Mon., February 16-19 **MEDINA ICE FESTIVAL** **Medina Square**
Details at www.mainstreetmedinacom.

Thu., February 22 (7:00 p.m.) **CELEBRATE UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY** **Second Baptist Church**
Join community and business leaders, school, churches, and community groups for a program of music, inspiration, and celebration of all that unites us. For more information, go to <https://medinacounty-oh.aauw.net>.

Sun., February 18, (4:00-8:00 p.m.) **DO GOOD WITH BURRITOS** **Chipotle, 899 N. Court, Medina and Chipotle, 990 High St., Wadsworth**
A fundraiser to support the Medina County Sheriff's K-9 unit and K9s of Valor will be held at Chipotle. Meet the K-9 unit, grab something to eat, and buy a raffle ticket to help raise money for the emergency veterinarian care fund. Bring in the flyer or show it on your smartphone and tell the cashier you're supporting the cause; 50% of the proceeds will be donated.

Sat., February 24 (9:00 a.m.-Noon) **THE RESILIENT GARDEN** **A.I. Root Candle Community Room**
Learn how to integrate and plant native plants (beyond milkweed) into your existing landscape. Registration (\$25/person or \$40/2 people) includes great speakers, door prizes, and a full-color booklet on native plants of Ohio. Register by February 16. Call OSU Extension Office (330-725-4911) for information.

First Friday, February-November 10:00-11:30 a.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m. **MASTER GARDENER COFFEE CHATS** **OSU Extension Office**
Enjoy coffee and snacks while learning something new and discussing options for your yard or garden. Pre-registration is requested (go.osu.edu/chats), but walk-ins are welcome. Cost is \$5 per person.

MEDINA BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

www.medinacounty200.com <http://www.medina200.com/>

Sat., February 10 (1:00 p.m.) **UNDERGROUND RAILROAD** **Grace Drake Theater (222 S. Broadway)**
The Western Reserve Historical Society will present a program on the Underground Railroad in the City of Medina and Medina County. Local Underground Railroad Station homeowners will share presentations on their homes.

Thu., February 22 **DIVERSITY DAY** **Second Baptist Church**
Black History Through Music



200 Holes for 200 Years! The City of Medina invites golfers to help celebrate its Bicentennial by participating in the Bicentennial Golf Tournament. Play begins May 1 and ends September 30. A \$10 registration fee must accompany registration to cover promotion and prizes. Register at the participating golf courses or download the form and information from the Medina Bicentennial website (medina200.com). Participating golf courses are:

Bunker Hill Copper Top Cossett Creek Deer Pass Ridge Top Rustic Hills Shale Creek Valleaire