

COMMISSIONERS CORNER



Sandusky County, Ohio

September 2025

9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



Commissioner Scott Miller, along with Sheriff Chris Hilton, EMS Chief-Jeff Jackson, Ohio State Representative-Gary Click, Lieutenant Governor-Jim Tressel and many others attended the Remembrance Ceremony at the Public Safety Service Memorial in Williams Park, Gibsonburg, to remember the attack, its victims and its hero's on Thursday, September 11th.

A 7,000-pound piece of steel recovered from the 9/11 terrorist attack was at the center of the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. The piece came from the antenna of the North World Trade Center in New York City. The memorial was dedicated on September 11, 2016, as a tribute to the nation's first responders and the victims of September 11th.

The event began with the singing of the national anthem and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Prayer was led by Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke, of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gibsonburg. Speakers included Gibsonburg Mayor-Steven Fought; Ohio State Representative-Gary Click, Gibsonburg Schools Superintendent-Dr. Robert Falkenstein, Retired Fremont Assistant Chief of Police-Dennis VanWey and Commissioner Scott Miller.

Wreaths were laid by members of the Gibsonburg Madison Township Fire Department, Chief Marty Brown, Gibsonburg Police Department Chief-Don Karr and Sandusky County Sheriff-Chris Hilton, along with Sandusky County EMS Chief-Jeff Jackson.

The event concluded with the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the Black Swamp Pipes and Drums and the singing of "God Bless America", led by the Gibsonburg High School



Courtesy of the News Messenger.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Commissioners Miller and Zimmerman attended the First National Bank's 150th anniversary ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 9th. Few businesses can say they've served their community for a century and a half, and this achievement shows their lasting impact of dedication, leadership, and community pride.

They were joined by the City of Fremont, Sandusky County Commissioners, Ohio Secretary of State's Office, Chamber Ambassadors, Chamber Board Member Brenda Ginnever (First National Bank VP/Retail Manager), and Jeff Bechtel (First National Bank President/CEO), who all shared in honoring this milestone.



CRIBS FOR KIDS

October is Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month in Ohio. SIDS and accidental suffocation are among the leading causes of death in infants between 1 month and 12 months of age, most commonly occurring among infants 1-4 months old.

Sleep-related infant deaths are among the most preventable infant deaths by practicing the ABC's of Safe Sleep. Sandusky County Public Health has been committed to promoting optimal health and safety for all Sandusky County infants and to reducing infant mortality by offering a Newborn Welcome Home Visit to all new mothers.

A home visit is provided at no charge to offer a health check for baby and mom, tips for newborn care, safe sleep education as well as referrals to community resources.

A free Pack-n-Play is offered through the Cribs for Kids program for those in need of a safe place for their infant to sleep. For more information on the Newborn Welcome Home Program and the Cribs for Kids Program, call 419-334-6377.



VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Vehicle inspections will be conducted on
ONE DAY ONLY

**Wednesday, 10/15/25,
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

Inspections will be completed at the
**Sandusky County Engineers
2500 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420**

Only one day available for inspections with multiple
inspectors due to inspector availability.

Mileage sheets will be sent out prior to the inspections.

Please ensure that your completed sheets are returned
before the inspection date to allow the inspection process
to flow more efficiently.

**The mileage request sheets and inspection notification
e-mail will be sent out by 10/01/25.**

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Farm Science Review



Commissioners Miller and Zimmerman along with other CCAO members and staff attended the 2025 Ohio College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences Farm Science (CFAES) Review.

The grand opening is a celebration of partnership across levels of government in support of agriculture.

Governor and First Lady DeWine, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Brian Baldridge, and Ohio State CFAES Dean Cathann Kress took part in the opening.

The mission of the CFAES is to sustain life. Through their missions of teaching, research, and extension, they focus on four grand challenges:

- **Sustainability:** Simultaneously ensuring viable agriculture production, food security and safety, and environmental and ecosystem sustainability.
- **One health:** Studying the intersections or interactions among human, animal, and environmental health.
- **Rural-Urban Interface:** Exploring the tensions and opportunities created in communities, industries, policies, economies, and communications among rural and urban leaders.
- **Leadership:** Preparing the next generation of scientists and leaders.



Pictured Above L to R: Clark County Commissioner Melanie Wilt, First Lady Fran DeWine, and Governor Mike DeWine.



Pictured Above: CCAO members and staff, Ohio Department of Agriculture Director Brian Baldridge, and OSU CFAES Dean Cathann Kress.

THE LEAF LOUNGE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

Commissioners Miller and Zimmerman attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Leaf Lounge located at 323 Garrison Street, Fremont. Congratulations to owner Kayden Warner!

The Leaf Lounge offers houseplants, décor, succulent & terrarium workshops, plant bingo, and even a “Plant Emergency Room”. Stop by and check out the space where plants and people thrive.



Pictured Above: Commissioners Miller & Zimmerman

Pictured Above: Owner, Kayden Warner

Alexa BROWN

MEMORIAL 5K RUN/WALK



On September 20th, over 500 runners/walkers were registered to participate in downtown Clyde's annual Alexa Brown Memorial Run/Walk and Kid's Butterfly Run.

This run takes place during Clyde's fair each September. All proceeds (approximately \$20,000 this year) will be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Proceeds from all the races in memory of Alexa have been designated for pediatric cancer research. Over the years, they have supported CureSearch, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and for the last eight years, they have supported St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This year's total will push the overall total donation to this vital research to well over \$200,000.

The entire race committee, including Wendy and Warren Brown, thanks all who have participated in this important event over the past 16 years, some of whom have made it to every race.

Warren is especially grateful to Judge Ray and his co-workers in the Sandusky County Adult Probation Department for their participation. God bless you all.

Alexa's Butterflies of Hope is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Visit alexasbutterflies.com to make a donation or consider donating directly to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Alexa Brown's name.

Pictured Left - Front L to R: Melanie Ray, Megan Miller, Taylor Fraser, Erica Mueller. Back L to R: Judge Jeremiah Ray, Justin Fraser, Rick Dale, Terry Abney, Warren Brown and the little guy in the stroller is Liam Fraser.



The final tours of the year will be conducted at the end of October.

10/29/25 Historic Tour 5:30 pm \$5.00
10/29/25 Flashlight Tour 6:30 pm \$10.00

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau website at www.sanduskycounty.org. Under **Featured Attractions**, select **Historic Jail & Dungeon**.

Contact the Visitor's Bureau if you have questions or would like to inquire about private tours.

419-332-4470 or 800-255-8070

DELICIOUS FRUIT DIP

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (8 oz) container of marshmallow cream (I like the Marshmallow Fluff brand)
- 1 (8 ounce) package of cream cheese, softened

DIRECTIONS:

Add cream cheese and marshmallow fluff to a bowl.

Use a hand mixer to combine until smooth.

Great with apples, grapes and strawberries.

Keep refrigerated.

This is such a simple recipe, but it is so addictive. You can add a little sugar or vanilla if you prefer it sweeter.



MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES



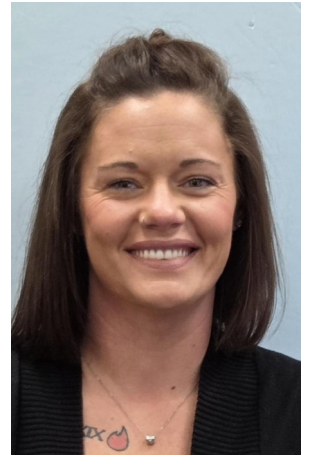
Melinda Kubitz
Sheriff
Communications Deputy



Cassandra Tucker
Sheriff
Jail-Based Social Worker



Brandon Hays
Sanitary Engineers
Operator in Training



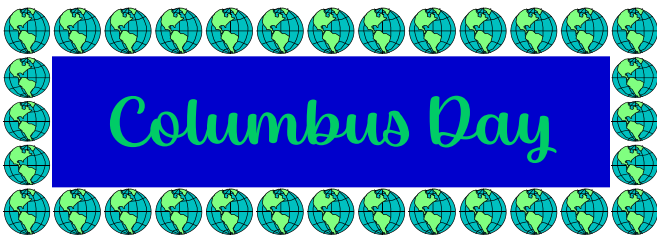
Jennifer Reamer
OSS Solid Waste
Finance/Admin Coordinator



Taylor Garcia
Environmental Health
Specialist in Training
Public Health



Brock Minnick
Engineer's Office
Maintenance Worker I



Monday, October 13th, is a federal holiday. Banks, schools and federal offices will be closed.

The USPS mail is not delivered on Columbus Day, however, FedEx and UPS will continue to offer pickup and delivery services on Columbus Day.

Enjoy your long weekend!



POKER WALK

The poker walk will take place on Friday, October 31st during lunchtime.

Ian Cantu will be sending out additional information regarding the route details and prize information soon via an e-mail to all employees

Just a reminder, you can log into your Anthem account to enter your daily steps to receive rewards for your completed activities. Under My Health Dashboard, select Activity Tracking to enter your activity/steps.





RECOGNITION



50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



On September 10th, SCEMS held their 50th Anniversary Gala at The Victors Event Center. Guests enjoyed an evening filled with conversing with past members, public officials, and friends. Along with that, everyone enjoyed a meal with dessert, silent raffle, speeches, awards, and the evening ended with guest speaker Michael V. Ivanov of SpeakLife.





MONTHLY RECOGNITION



50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA





RECOGNITION AWARDS



At the Ottawa Sandusky Seneca County Waste Management District directors meeting, they announced that three of its staff members had been recognized with top honors by the Solid Waste Association of North America - Ohio Buckeye Chapter for their exceptional achievements in the field of waste management.

Congratulations to **OSS Executive Director, Gary Baty**, on receiving the James S. Bridges Solid Waste Professional of the Year Award, the chapter's most distinguished honor.

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated long-term exemplary service and leadership in the field of solid waste management. The OSS staff members recognized bring a wide range of leadership, innovation, and dedication to improving solid waste practices.

Gary brought over 21 years of U.S. Army experience and seven years in the waste and recycling industry to his role at OSS. After beginning his solid waste career with Republic Services in 2018, Gary joined OSS in 2020 as executive director, where he provided strategic leadership to the district, managed a \$4 million annual budget and oversaw programs spanning recycling, litter prevention, composting, and public education.

Congratulations to **OSS Recycling Specialist, Jim Darr**, who was named the Kevin M. Bonzo Solid Waste Innovator of the Year, which recognizes highly significant, forward-thinking contributions to the field of solid waste management.

With a career in recycling dating back to 1993, Jim has managed township drop-off programs, coordinated major collection events and overseen the operation of OSS's processing center and Aim to Be Green program. His work with The Recycling Partnership helped modernize signage and reduce contamination through direct public engagement campaigns in 2023 and 2024.

Congratulations to **Tim Hassinger, OSS Communications and Outreach Specialist**, on receiving the Young Professional of the Year Award which honors an outstanding solid waste professional aged 35 or younger who demonstrates passion, leadership, and dedication to the industry's future.

Since joining OSS in 2020, Tim has been a driving force behind the district's educational outreach, marketing and event coordination. He led the complete redesign of recycleoss.org, managed public engagement for Adopt-A-Road and container loan programs and organized workshops and special collection events.

"These awards reflect the extraordinary talent and commitment of our team," Gary said. "I'm honored to be recognized alongside two colleagues whose innovation and leadership have helped make OSS one of the most forward-Thinking districts in the state."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FOR THEIR
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION!**

Courtesy of the News Messenger.



FUREVER HOME NEEDED



Klaus

My name is Klaus and I came to the kennel as a stray. I'm a six year old male Rottweiler. I'm very smart and learning manners while I'm here.

I enjoy cuddles, scratches and walks. Even though I'm a bigger dog, I do very well walking.

I love attention and will let you know when I'm not getting enough. I'm very vocal.

I haven't met any dogs one on one while I've been in the kennel, but I haven't shown anything negative in the kennels. I do jump in excitement at times, so I might knock kids over until I learn that's not okay.

I have lots of energy and love to give!

Available for adoption 09-26-25

Kennel ID #: D25-260

Intake Date: 09/09/25



ADOPTION INFORMATION

Adoption fee is \$150, which includes the spay or neuter, 4 in 1 vaccine, 1 year rabie vaccine, heartworm test, deworming, heartworm & flea/tick prevention and the current year's dog license.

ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

Adopters must be 18 years of age or older, required to ensure the spay/neuter is completed, must not have a conviction of animal cruelty on their record and must confine and license the dog in accordance with ORC 955.

DOG KENNEL
1950 Countryside Drive
Fremont, OH 43420
419-334-2372

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Columbus Day** - October 13th (Federal Holiday)
- **Vehicle Inspections** - October 15th 8:30 am - 1:00 pm
- **Halloween** - October 31st
- **Daylight Savings Time Ends** - November 2nd
- **Veteran's Day** - November 11th (Federal Holiday)
- **Thanksgiving** - November 27th (Federal Holiday)
- **Black Friday** - November 28th



UNITED WAY
Sandusky County

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN
LEADING THE WAY

Leading the Way doesn't require grand gestures. Small, consistent acts of generosity ripple outward, creating lasting change. Whether it's a one-time gift or a monthly contribution, every dollar you give helps.

Commissioner Zimmerman asks that you consider a payroll deduction to help those in need in our county.

Additional contribution forms are available in the Commissioners Office. **Prize flyer is attached for those contributing.**

TRICK OR TREATING SCHEDULE

October 25th (Saturday)

Clyde: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Port Clinton (Downtown): 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

October 30th (Thursday)

Norwalk: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

October 31st (Friday)

Bellevue: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Gibsonburg: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Marblehead: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Oak Harbor (Downtown): 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Oak Harbor: 6:00 - 7:30 m

Oregon: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Pemberville: 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Perrysburg: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Rossford: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Sandusky: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Toledo: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



All dates/times that were available when this newsletter was published are noted.

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



UNITED WAY
Sandusky County



GIVE & WIN SWEEPSTAKES

Give a gift of **\$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100** to United Way's Annual Campaign by 4:30 P.M. EST
Tuesday, December 30, 2025, and be automatically entered to win.

GIVE \$100 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE FOLLOWING



**2 Tickets to a Detroit Tigers Game
During the 2026 Season**

Sponsored by **Huntington National Bank**



GIVE \$75 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING



**FriendShip Stores
\$200 Gift Card**

Sponsored by
Beck Suppliers, Inc.



**2026 Fremont Recreation
Family Membership**

Sponsored by
**Fremont Community
Recreation Complex**

GIVE \$50 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING



**4 Tickets to a Toledo Mud Hens
Game during the 2026 Season**

Sponsored by
Fifth Third Bank



Golf Package

Sponsored by
Green Hills Golf Course



2026 Zoo Family Membership

Sponsored by
Edward Jones - Clyde

GIVE \$25 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING

**Ideal Bakery Gift Certificate
Root's Poultry Basket**

**Whitey's Gift Certificate
Fremont Community Theatre Tickets**

**Ballville EZ Shop Gift Certificate
Depot Gift Certificate**