

COMMISSIONERS CORNER



Sandusky County, Ohio

December 2023

Kudos to the Board of Developmental Disabilities

The Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD) recently underwent state accreditation from the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) team. The team reviewed areas of personnel, Early Intervention, Title XX, Investigative Services, Service and Support Administration (SSA) and Medicaid Waiver Administration in mid-September.

During the review, the DODD was pleased with what they reviewed and observed. The SCBDD was awarded a PERFECT accreditation and received a 3-year accreditation award.

The Commissioners presented SCBDD with a proclamation recognizing the SCBDD personnel for their commitment and dedication to providing excellent care to those in need of their services and being awarded a PERFECT accreditation.



Pictured above: The Board of Developmental Disabilities Staff and Commissioners Schwochow, Miller and Zimmerman.

MISSION: We serve for a lifetime.

VISION: By listening to those we serve, we strive to provide a lifetime of meaningful supports to optimize and enrich relationships.

CORE VALUES: Person-Centered, Leadership; Collaboration, Accountability, Excellence, Relationship



Pictured right: Commissioner Schwochow, Sarah Zimmerman, Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Zimmerman.

VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY

Commissioners Miller and Schwochow attended the 2023 Veteran's Day Ceremony organized by American Legion Post 608 that was held at the Sandusky County Courthouse along with members of VFW 2947, the color guard, rifle team and members of the community to honor veterans .

The ceremony is held at 11:00 am on November 11th due to WWI ending on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour.

The Fremont Ross Little Giants Band provided music for the ceremony.

Veteran's Day commemorates the service of all U.S. veterans. It allows us to show our respect and reverence for those who have served in the United States military to defend our freedoms and our way of life.



Guest speakers were Air Force Veterans Joe and Julie Barriere (Burke).

Thankful for the amazing turnout for this very worthwhile event!



Thank you for your service!



Photo credit to Doug Hiser/The News Messenger.



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

Time for some holiday cheer! The Commissioners are hosting a Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.

The trees will be displayed in the Courthouse lobby for judging and the winning office will receive a free lunch catered by Subway.

Trees will be judged the week after Christmas by a panels of judges to be determined.

Please refer the to the flyer that was e-mailed to all employees on December 5th for details. Please contact Sandy at 419-334-6100, if you have questions.



COURTHOUSE ROCK & AWE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Commissioner Schwochow successfully completed his Clark Griswold impression as he plugged in the lights for the Rock & Awe Courthouse lighting display.

A big thank you to the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau and to everyone that attended the ceremony.



Pictured: Commissioner Schwochow and Peggy Courtney, Executive Director of the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau.





1-MILE POKER WALK RESULTS



A big thank you to all that participated in the poker walk and to UIS Insurance for manning several check-in stations along the route. We had a beautiful day for the event.

Winners:

1st Prize (\$300 Spa Day):

Jackie Edmonds - Department of Job & Family Services

2nd (\$200 Target Gift Card):

Kim Moyer from Family & Children First Council

3rd (FitBit Charge 6):

Robbin Darling - Department of Job & Family Services

Jokers (\$100 Wal-Mart Gift Cards):

Lorrain Croy - Juvenile Court

Angie DeWeese - Health Department

Renee Livas - Department of Job & Family Services

Don Sartin - Juvenile/Probate

Special Drawing (Soda Stream):

Keith Kruse - Auditor/GIS



Pictured left: Ian Cantu, HR Representative



Pictured right: Paul Hershey from UIS Insurance.



Pictured above: Tina Yeager (JJC), Health Department walkers: Addie Burmeister, Morgan Garringer, Jane Molyet, Ally Smith, Sarah Eden & Angela Dewese.



Pictured above: Treasurer walkers: Leah Krumnow & Kim Kramer and UIS Insurance: Chad Collins & Missy Woessner.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

- Check your tire's tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather tires.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your wind shield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded.
- Keep cell phones charged and make sure you have a charger on hand.
- Ensure you have extra blankets or warmer clothing in your vehicle in case you get stranded.
- Always clear snow and ice from your windshield, windows, headlights and break lights in wintery conditions.
- Check the weather report when conditions are hazardous and allow extra time to reach your destination.

MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES



Courtney Kuhn
County Court 1



Allie Waters
EMS



Catherine Hovis
Engineers



Ryan Osborne
IT



2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE UPDATE

Do you remember the total solar eclipse that crossed the continental United States from coast to coast on August 21, 2017?

If you lived in, or traveled into, the 70-mile-wide path of totality, where the Moon completely blocked the Sun and turned day into night for 2 minutes or so, you undoubtedly remember it well.

The 2017 total solar eclipse was the first to touch the “Lower 48” since 1979 and the first to span the U.S. from coast to coast since 1918.

Remarkably, another total solar eclipse is coming to North America on April 8, 2024, just seven years after the last one.

This time the Moon’s dark central shadow, about 115 miles wide, will cross Mexico, sweep northeast from

Texas to Maine, and then darken parts of Eastern Canada. A partial solar eclipse will be visible to nearly everyone in North America fortunate to have cloud-free skies.

During a total solar eclipse, the Moon blocks the Sun’s bright face—the photosphere— briefly revealing our star’s outer atmosphere: the shimmering corona or “crown”.

Made of rarefied gas heated to millions of degrees, with its atoms highly ionized (stripped of electrons), the diaphanous corona gets sculpted into streamers and loops by the Sun’s powerful magnetic field and shines with a light seen nowhere else. It is hauntingly beautiful and, without doubt, one of the most awe-some sights in all of nature.

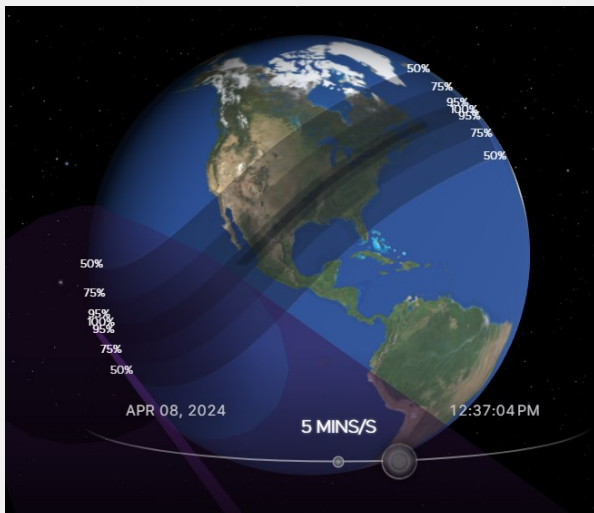


Photo is the total phase of the August 21, 2017, solar eclipse as seen from Madras, Oregon.

Courtesy of Rick Fienberg/TravelQuest International processing by Sean Walker, Sky & Telescope.

The Victors Event Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On November 21st, Commissioners Miller, Schwochow and Zimmerman attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for The Victors Event Center located at 2270 Hayes Avenue in Fremont.

They have a fully renovated event center that can cater to your specifications for weddings, graduation parties, company events, holiday parties, and so much more.

The options are endless and Victor is always willing to hear your new ideas on what they can do to make your event run smoothly and successfully.

Visit their Facebook Page, The Victors Event Center or call 419-333-0045 to



Pictured: Owners, Victor & Lorena Jimenez, and Commissioners Miller, Schwochow and Zimmerman.



FUN HOLIDAY FACTS

1. The tallest Christmas tree ever displayed was in Seattle, Washington, measuring 221 feet tall.
2. When the candy cane was invented in Germany, it was shaped like a "J" for Jesus Christ.
3. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer got his start as an advertising gimmick for Montgomery Ward in 1939.
4. Christmas trees usually grow for nearly 15 years before they can be sold.
5. One in three men wait until Christmas Eve to do their holiday shopping.
6. Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday in 1907.
7. Christmas came from the words, "Cristes Maesse", meaning "Mass of Christ".
8. The top six Christmas tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Washington and Wisconsin.
9. Americans purchase 1.6 billion Christmas cards every year.
10. The word "Merry" in Merry Christmas was not always socially acceptable, because being merry used to signify slight intoxication.
11. It only took six weeks for Charles Dickens to write "A Christmas Carol".
12. More than 400,000 illnesses are caused by spoiled Christmas leftovers.
13. The abbreviation X in X-mas is not an abbreviation; it actually stands for "Chi", meaning Christ in Greek.

Happy Holidays

The Sandusky County Commissioners and Staff would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May this beautiful holiday season fill your heart with love, your home with joy, and your life with laughter.

Wishing you and your families love, peace and joy!

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!

NOTE: See attached flyers for Rock & Awe , I.G.N.I.T.E Program update & the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.



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

ROCK & AWE

FREE HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

SANDUSKY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 100 NORTH PARK AVE. FREMONT



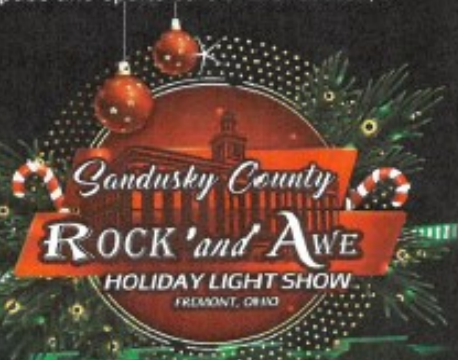
Every year, as the days grow shorter and temperatures drop, communities across the United States come alive with holiday spirit, transforming their neighborhoods into magical wonderlands of twinkling lights and festive decorations. Fremont, Ohio, has carved out its own unique niche with the "Rock & Awe Holiday Light Show." This is a fully immersive light show that synchronizes over 20K lights, choreographed to beloved holiday songs, creating a breathtaking visual feast. From cascading waterfalls of light to intricate patterns that seem to come alive, the courthouse is transformed into a radiant canvas that tells a story of holiday joy and merriment.

This free show will run nightly from Thanksgiving Eve to New Year's Day, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Sun-Thurs, 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Fri & Sat. This show is a collaborative project between the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau, The Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, the Sandusky County Commissioners and our premier sponsor, Croghan Colonial Bank.

There are also wonderful restaurants, boutique shops, pubs and sports bars and of course, a beautifully decorated downtown district.

SANDUSKYCOUNTY.ORG/calendar.

Rock & Awe Holiday Light Show
Sandusky County Courthouse
100 N Park Ave, Fremont, OH 43420





SANDUSKY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE I.G.N.I.T.E.

Individual Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education



"Eliminating generational incarceration through education, and by restoring value, hope, and purpose to our incarcerated population."

The purpose of I.G.N.I.T.E. is to offer comprehensive, merit based programming. Classes include education, career training, mental health, and substance abuse. We partner with local employers to help with post-release employment and provide follow up services in the community upon release.

With national recidivism rates at an all-time high, and the punitive nature of the criminal justice system, we as a community must come together to change the culture of incarceration. We work with our incarcerated individuals to provide necessary skills for successful reentry. We are committed to supporting these individuals as they strive to regain a sense of value, hope, and purpose in their lives.



Did you know...

In 2022 Sandusky County had:

1,430 jail admissions

92% were held in jail awaiting trial

15% went to prison

Meaning, 85% of those incarcerated were returned to our communities.

While in jail, many individuals lose their jobs, health care, homes, and means of transportation.

Incarceration can increase the symptoms of mental illness, such as anxiety and depression. Often it disrupts family and support systems and can lead to a sense of helplessness and a lack of purpose.

I.G.N.I.T.E. is designed to reduce the negative impacts of incarceration while improving the skills necessary to be successful upon reentry.

For more information contact:

Deputy Caren Nemitz

cnemitz@sanduskycountyoh.gov

419-334-6262

Classes Offered

Job Training
Resume Building
Interview Skills
Job Placement

GED/High School Diploma
Continuing Education

Mental Health Awareness

Substance Abuse Recovery Support

Stress Management
Yoga/Meditation
Health Education

Parenting Skills

"Step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create."

Oprah Winfrey



2023 Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

The Sandusky County Commissioner's are hosting a Christmas Tree Decorating Contest for All County Departments.

The Christmas trees will be setup in the Courthouse lobby the week of December 4th and are available on a first come basis.

Departments can decorate anytime from tree setup until December 22nd.

Make your tree the prettiest, goofiest, Grinchiest, sportiest, craziest, most creative.....have fun with it!

Trees will be judged the week after Christmas by a panel of judges to be determined.

The winning Department will receive a catered lunch from SUBWAY!

Only one (1) tree per department.

If you still have your tree from a previous year, you may set it up in the Courthouse lobby anytime.

Thank you for participating!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

