

COMMISSIONERS CORNER



Sandusky County, Ohio

February 2025

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

Commissioners Miller, Schwochow and Zimmerman attended the New Member Reception at the Ohio Statehouse on February 25th in Columbus OH.

This is a valuable opportunity for new CCAO members to connect with the legislature as we continue strengthening our counties for a stronger Ohio.

Lieutenant Governor Jim Tressel was the guest speaker for the event. Lt. Governor Tressel was appointed as the 67th Lieutenant Governor by Governor DeWine in February 2025. A member of the Republican Party, Tressel previously was president of Youngstown State University and head coach of the Ohio State Buckeyes football team from 2001 - 2010.



Pictured Above L to R: Commissioners Zimmerman, Miller and Schwochow at the Ohio Statehouse.

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

Treatment Alternative for Safer Communities (T.A.S.C.) is advancing its drug capabilities by incorporating new screening options for substances not typically included in standard drug tests. This includes testing for psilocybin mushrooms and LSD (also known as acid), addressing the growing need for more comprehensive substance direction.

Director, Tori Boyer emphasized the importance of staying ahead of emerging trends, stating, "As a drug and alcohol treatment program, we need to evolve with the times and stay on top of trends in our area."

By implementing these enhanced testing methods, T.A.S.C. is setting higher standards for its office and the various programs and entities it serves.

Committed to providing top-tier services, T.A.S.C. continues to support individuals and organizations throughout Sandusky, Seneca, Ottawa, and Huron counties with reliable and comprehensive drug testing solutions.



Officially the changeover occurs at
2:00 am Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

Severe Weather Awareness Week is March 16 - 22, 2025.

March through May are known as our traditional spring severe weather season. The severe weather consists of thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, lightening, hail, and damaging winds.

Be prepared. Choose your emergency communications, make a plan, keep an emergency kit for your home and vehicle, trim back trees and use surge protectors for your electronic devices.

Statewide Tornado Drill will take place on Wednesday,
March 19th at 9:50 am.



KAY REITER TRIBUTE



October 17, 1953 - February 14, 2025

Kay E. (Lieske) Reiter accomplished many worthwhile achievements in her 71 years.

Kay was dedicated to her family and a leader in her community. If she wasn't busy cheering on her grandchildren at sporting events, she could be found volunteering at one of the many community events. Throughout her life, Kay held many positions and her commitment to her community is second to none. She once said "It takes a team to get everything done." Many of these teams relied on her leadership and dedication, and the world is a better place for having her in it.

She was a nurse for multiple local physicians, Director of Physician Services with Memorial Health System, CEO & President with Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce, Director of Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Executive Director of Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation. She also served as Ballville Township Trustee and Sandusky County Commissioner. She served on the board at Terra State Community College Governing Board for 13 years (including 5 years as chairperson) and was recently named Trustee Emeritus.

Kay was a founding member of "Relay fo Life" of Sandusky County, a longtime member of the Fremont Ohio Soroptimist Chapter, a member of Rotary of Fremont (past President), an Officer for the Rotary Fremont Foundation Board, a longtime Rotary International "Paul Harris" Fellow, past Co-Chair (with her husband Dale) for The United Way of Sandusky County Annual Campaign, a co-founder of the Sandusky County TRIPS program, an organizer of Sacred Heart Parish Annual Church Festivals, and a founding member of Sandusky County Positive People.

She volunteered for many community fundraisers (including Terra State Community College and ProMedica "Cookin' Men" event) and delivered gifts for The United Way Community Christmas Program. She also served as a Eucharistic Minister at Sacred Heart Parish and as a pastoral appointment on the Governing Board of Bishop Hoffman Schools.

Kay received many awards during her years of dedicated community service, including the International Athena "Women of Distinction" Award, the Chamber of Commerce of Sandusky County's REACH "Crystal Apple" Award, ProMedica Memorial Hospital Auxiliary "Auxiliarian of the Year", Memorial Hospital Foundation's "Mary Miller Hayes Leadership" Award, Soroptimist International "Women of Distinction" Award, and The NW Ohio Economic Development Association "Ignite" Award.

She will be greatly missed by her family, friends and the many members of the community she served.



Low-Risk Drinking Course

- April 3rd 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- April 17th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- April 24th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- April 28th 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



OSS 2025 Special Collection Dates

- Appliances - Now through June 26th
- Electronics - Now through May 1st
- Tires - Now through June 26th
- Household Hazardous Waste - Now through October 1st

Visit www.scpublichealth.com under **Events** for details. Contact Jim Posey at jposey@scpublichealth.com if you have questions about the event.

You must register to participate.
Visit RecycleOSS.org or
call 419-334-7222 Ext. 0
to register.



ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET



The Sandusky County Sheriff's Office held a long overdue awards banquet to celebrate the success and achievements of all their hard working deputies on February 27, 2025, at the Victor's Event Center in Fremont OH.



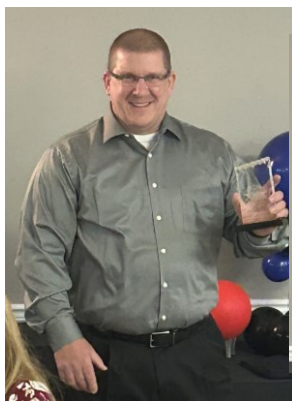
10 Years of Service - Pictured L to R: Detective Sergeant Jason Kline, Corrections Deputy Katie Shreffler, Deputy Matt Stotz & Dispatcher Katy Schwartz.



15 Years of Service - Pictured L to R: Captain Brian McGrady, Fiscal Deputy Amy Little, Deputy Matt Ray & not pictured, Director of Communications Tina Anderson.



25 Years of Service: Sergeant MJ Dumminger presented by Major Nick Kotsopoulos.



30 Years of Service: Captain Mike Meggitt.



Corrections Deputy of the Year, Jody Estep



Road Patrol Deputy of the Year, Sergeant Josh Kouts



Dispatcher of the Year, Kaytlynn Quick



After many years of service, Chief Ed Hastings is retiring.



Commissioners Zimmerman, Miller, Schwochow, County Auditor Jerri Miller and Sheriff Hilton.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL RECIPIENTS!

RETIREMENT NEWS



Congratulations to Leah Krumnow on her recent retirement!!

Leah has been with the Treasurer's office for six years and worked her last day on the job Friday, February 21st.

She is looking forward to relaxing and spending time with her husband of 45 years.

Wishing her the very best!!

Pictured Right (L to R): Heather Whitcum, Kim Kramer, Kim Foreman and Leah Krumnow.



BOARD OF ELECTIONS UPDATE



The Board of Elections will be holding their reorganizational meeting on March 5th. The board reorganizes biennially with one member of each political party being nominated by their respective County Central Committee. Sandra Wise from the Democratic party and Justin Smith from the Republican party have been nominated and approved by the Ohio Secretary of State to serve another 2-year term. They will be sworn in, and a new chairperson will be elected for the term. The board is comprised of four board members, a director and deputy director. Each represents the two major political parties, creating a bipartisan office.

The next election will be held on Tuesday, May 6th. There will be one statewide bond issue on the ballot, along with local tax levies for Bellevue City Schools

and Rice Township. The only candidates appearing on the ballot will be a Republican Primary in the City of Bellevue for council at large and a Republican Primary in Fremont's 3rd ward for the 3rd ward council seat. Therefore, voters in those districts will have the choice of either a Republican ballot or an Issues Only ballot. All other ballots within the county will only contain issues.

The deadline to register to vote or update your name/address information is April 7th. Early in-person voting and voting by mail will begin on April 8th.

Please visit the board's website at: [Sandusky County, Ohio - Board of Elections](#) for important dates and sample ballots.

MARCH AWARENESS MONTH

March brings awareness to several different worthwhile causes such as:

- Developmental Disabilities Awareness
- Multiple Sclerosis Awareness
- National Bleeding Disorder Awareness
- National Kidney Month
- National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness

- Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness (March 26th)
- National Nutrition Month
- Severe Weather Awareness Month
- World Down Syndrome Day (March 21st)

Support for those dealing with these issues on a daily basis means more than you can imagine. Whether you donate to their cause or provide some type of service or volunteer your time.

CORONER INVESTIGATOR TRAINING

On Friday, February 28th, Sandusky County Coroner Investigator, Paul Whitaker, was the speaker at the Investigator for the Medico-Legal Death Investigator training session. It was presented by the Seneca Coroner's Office, Dr. Zachary West, DO, in participation with Sandusky County Coroner's Office, Dr. Mark Smith. It was also attended by Ottawa County Coroner's Office investigators. Session covered notification of death to scene clean up.

- Receives call informing Coroner of a death
- Arrive at the scene
 - Scene safety
 - Preservation of life
 - Who to talk to
- Scene protection
- Scene assessment
 - Walk-through
 - Action areas
 - BCI
- Information collection
 - Collection vs. analysis
 - Staging
 - Info related to the scene & the body
 - Extraneous sources
- Death information according to TYPE of death
- Manner of Death
- Scene Assessment by Manner Elimination (SAME)
 - Homicide, Suicide, Accident, Natural Causes
- Writing Notes
- Visual Preservation
 - Scene & body photos, identification placard
- Body examination & body charting
- Interviewing witnesses
- Tools of the trade
- Conveyance to the morgue
- Scene clean up

Ensuring scenes are thoroughly processed using methodical techniques assists the Coroner in determining the cause of death and is available if needed by law enforcement or the Prosecutor's Office.

Pictured Right L to R: Julia Schwertner & Sandy Karim-Ottawa Co Coroner Investigators, Dr. Mark Smith-Sandusky Co Coroner, Dr. Zachary West-Seneca Co Coroner, Paul Whitaker-Sandusky Co Coroner Investigator, Taylor Henn-Seneca Co Coroner Investigator, Amy Dickman-Seneca Co Coroner Investigator & Lexie Prenzlin-Sandusky Co Coroner Investigator.



Pictured Below Left: Classroom photo during session.

Pictured Below Right: Paul Whitaker, Dr. Mark Smith & Lexie Prenzlin.





INGREDIENTS:

- 3 1/2 cups Rice Chex cereal
- 3 1/2 cups Honey Nut Cheerios cereal
- 1 1/2 cups pretzel sticks
- 16 oz vanilla almond bark
- 1/2 cup butterscotch chips
- 10 oz bag Easter M&Ms
- 1/2 cup salted peanuts

DIRECTIONS:

Mix the cereals and pretzel sticks together in a large bowl,.

Melt the vanilla almond bark in the microwave in increments of 15 seconds, stirring after each interval, until completely melted.

Pour the melted almond bark over the cereal mixture and toss together until thoroughly combined.

While almond bark is still warm, gently fold in the Easter M&Ms and butterscotch chips.

Transfer Bunny Bait to a baking sheet and let it stand at room temperature to harden, approximately 45 minutes.

Once the almond bark has hardened, break into pieces and transfer to a serving bowl.

Be creative! As long as the quantities are similar, you can add whatever you like (popcorn, peanuts, sprinkles).



NATIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER APPRECIATION DAY

The National Associate of School Resource Officers encouraged schools and communities to recognize the valuable work of their School Resource Officers (SROs) during National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day on February 15th of each year.

SROs perform various duties that can be categorized into investigative, enforcement, patrol and response, security, mentoring, and teaching activities.

They provide crisis and emergency training to the staff and faculty. They will also conduct informational presentations to parent groups concerning emerging drug trends their children may be exposed to. The SRO may also speak to school clubs about driver safety issues.



Lakota Schools recognized Deputy Johannsen on National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day.

Thank you for keeping our schools safe and supporting our local communities.

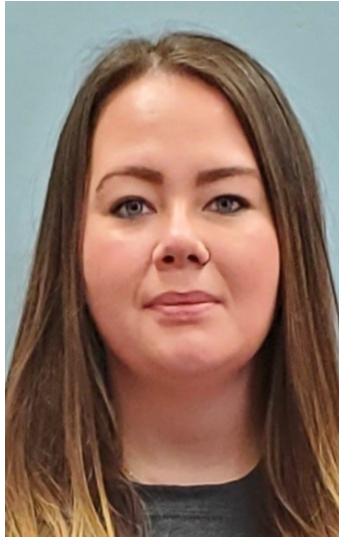
MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES



Terry Abney
Adult Probation
Adult Probation Officer



Zane Voorhees
Sheriff
Communications Deputy



Taylor Pena
Sheriff
Communications Deputy



Mercedes Philon
Common Pleas
Admin Assistant



Lauren Hlodan
DJFS
Eligibility Worker 2



Meghan King
DJFS
Eligibility Worker 2



Juston Carpenter
Public Health
Director of Environmental



Marci Brown
DJFS
Social Service Worker 2

WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME

**THINK
SPRING**

Only 16 days until
SPRING!





St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th.

Whether you're Irish or not, chances are you've celebrated St. Patrick's Day at some point in your life. People of all backgrounds love to go to St. Patrick's Day parades, wear green clothing, and decorate with shamrocks.

Many enjoy indulging in classic Irish dishes such as corned beef and cabbage or drinking green beer.

However, you choose to celebrate, ensure that you do so safely.



Prayer of St Patrick

**CHRIST BE WITH ME, CHRIST WITHIN ME,
CHRIST BEHIND ME, CHRIST BEFORE ME,
CHRIST BESIDE ME, CHRIST TO WIN ME,
CHRIST TO COMFORT ME AND RESTORE ME.
CHRIST BENEATH ME, CHRIST ABOVE ME,
CHRIST IN QUIET, CHRIST IN DANGER,
CHRIST IN HEARTS OF ALL THAT LOVE ME,
CHRIST IN MOUTH OF FRIEND
OR STRANGER**

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POLICY REVIEW

SECTION 5.13

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY

Under this policy, the employer can require current employees to undergo testing for alcohol or drug use, when there is reasonable suspicion to believe the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs while at work.

Under Section 7.c. Misuse of Alcohol: Substance abuse includes both consumption of alcohol while on duty; as well as the act of reporting to duty or working after having consumed sufficient alcohol to constitute a "positive" result of .04 BAC or higher. Legal conviction for public intoxication, driving while under the influence, or other serious alcohol-related convictions shall also be considered "substance abuse".

Under Section E.3. Conviction: Any employee convicted of any Federal or State criminal drug statute must notify the employer of the fact within five (5) calendar days of the conviction.

This policy is intended to assure that no employee with a drinking or drug problem will have his/her job security, or promotional opportunities jeopardized by a request for treatment.

**MARCH FOOD
JOURNAL CHALLENGE**

Did you know that March is National Nutrition Month?

Let's celebrate with a challenge by tracking our food in a journal for the month of March.

Only two rules:

#1 - Create a food journal using the attached food journal template. Use this guide to track your daily calories, sugar intake and macronutrients of at least one of our meals per day. Each week submit your food journal to Ian Cantu in person, by fax (419-334-6104) or by e-mail (icantu@sanduskycountyoh.gov). Each submission will enter you into a drawing for 1 of 3 gift cards valued at \$150!

#2 - Bonus Credit - if you create a MyPlate Plan on myplate.gov/myplate-plan and send Ian your results (pdf or screenshot), you will earn additional entry into the drawing for 1 of 3 grand prizes.

Challenge ends March 28th & winners will be announced on March 31st.

Full flyer and food journal form attached to newsletter.

NOTE: Gift cards will be taxed.



RECOGNITION



NIGHT TO SHINE

Lieutenant Stoudinger and EMT Studer spent a Friday evening providing EMS coverage for the Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine event hosted by New Hope Vineyard Church that was held on February 7, 2025.

Thank you for supporting our community.

They even got their picture taken with Mr. Fremont!



PARAMEDIC TACTICAL TEAM

The Sandusky County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT), commonly known as SWAT, is an elite group of law enforcement officers from departments across Sandusky County.

When conducting their simulation drills, an EMS team is part of the unit. They are essential for simulation of real injuries. As danger is cleared, they are brought in to help the wounded, which also has to be drilled.

This is a great collaboration of law enforcement agencies within the county and SCEMS is proud to be a part of it.

SCEMS is currently hiring Paramedics and EMTs. If you know of anyone that is interested in applying, please have them visit the county website: sanduskycountyoh.gov.

JANUARY 2025 MONTHLY RUN TOTALS

January 2025



- Station 14: 135
- Station 15: 159
- Station 17: 259
- Station 18: 217
- Station 19: 69
- Headquarters: 13

Patients Transported : 501

MONTHLY RUN TOTAL: 852
YTD RUN TOTAL: 852

Sandusky County Emergency Medical Service (SCEMS) began delivering emergency paramedic services in 1975 and continues to be the primary Emergency Medical Service provider for more than 60,000 residents and all visitors to Sandusky County Ohio.

SCEMS is operated by the Sandusky County Board of Commissioners as a single countywide 911 emergency service.

SCEMS has a primary response district of over 400 square miles including a portion of the Ohio Turnpike. The county is a mix of rural, suburban, and industrial areas located in and between several cities, the largest of which is Fremont (population 17k). SCEMS responds to approximately seven thousand five hundred (7,500) emergency calls per year and provides standby coverage for a variety of events and incidents.



MAIL PROCESSING INFORMATION

Please be mindful of the items noted below.

1. All out-going mail that requires postage, MUST have a sending department identified (use a Post-It note if necessary). All mail is processed through the mail machine by department.
2. If there is not a sending department on out-going mail, that piece of mail will be set on the table in front of the inter-office mail slots with a note requesting the department be identified. Postage will be added once sending department has been identified. Please check the table.
3. Do not place inter-office mail in the out-going mail bin that requires postage. The inter-office mail slots are in alphabetical order. If you need help, please ask.
4. Envelopes that need to be sealed MUST have the flaps up. The machine cannot seal them if they are not up.
5. Over stuffed envelopes jam the mail machine. The price is by weight, using a larger envelope will eliminate jamming the machine and the price is the same.
6. Ensure pages in the envelop are below the envelope fold line. If they are not, they jam the machine.

We appreciate you following these guidelines which help the mail process flow more efficiently.

SPRING FEVER

Some people actually experience "spring fever" during the spring, which is a feeling of extra energy and excitement.

Spring symbolizes renewal, rebirth, and new beginnings. It's a time to let go of the past and embrace the future.

The warmer weather and longer days encourage people to spend more time outdoors and beckons us to step outside and connect with nature.

Spring can make us feel more positive and energized. We want to go out, meet up with friends, walk through the parks, or take a getaway to the beach or the countryside. The reason behind this is the release of serotonin, dopamine, and oxytocin, related to happiness, pleasure, and stress relief.

Many people enjoy doing spring cleaning, getting rid of clutter and getting organized as the weather warms up.



Animals are starting to surface from their winter hibernation, so be on the look out for increased animal activity as you're driving.



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

March Food Journal Challenge!

Did you know that March is National Nutrition Month? Let's celebrate with a challenge. Let's start a food journal tracking your meals on a daily basis this month. We are looking for a few key indicators when tracking such as; macronutrients like protein, carbs, and fats, total daily caloric intake, and identifying and eliminating excess sugar.

Here are the rules:

1. Create a food journal using the attached food journal template. Use this guide to track your daily calories, sugar intake and macronutrients of at least one of your meals per day. Each week submit your food journal to me in person, via email or by fax. Each submission will enter you into a drawing for 1 of 3 gift cards all valued at \$150!
2. Bonus Credit—if you create a MyPlate Plan on myplate.gov/myplate-plan and send me your results (pdf or screenshot). This will earn you an additional entry into the drawing for 1 of 3 grand prizes.



Monday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Tuesday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Wednesday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Thursday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Friday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Saturday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	

Sunday

Meal (List items)	
Carbs (g)	
Total Fat (g)	
Protein (g)	
Total Sugar (g)	
Total Calories	