

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

Monday, December 18, 2023



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine visited the Urban Community School in Cleveland to tour the elementary school and the Gallagher Family Early Education Center.

In honor of the life and service of Preble County Sheriff's Deputy Joshua Hamilton and the life of Michael Gayhart II, Governor DeWine ordered the flags of the United States and the state of Ohio to be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds throughout Preble County, the Ohio Statehouse, the Vern Riffe Center, and the Rhodes State Office Tower Monday, and will remain until sunset on the day of the second of the two funerals.

Tuesday, December 19, 2023



Governor DeWine announced that he will be reappointing Kari Gunter-Seymour of Albany, Ohio as the state's poet laureate. Gunter-Seymour's next term begins Jan. 1, 2024.

"Fran and I are pleased that Kari Gunter-Seymour will continue to serve as Ohio's Poet Laureate where she will continue her work of creating connections through poetry with communities all across Ohio," said Governor DeWine. "Kari shared her poem 'Perfect Pitch' during our

For the week ending December 22, 2023

Inauguration in January and it was a highlight of the celebration of all things Ohio."

In accordance with the orders issued by the President of the United States and to honor the life and legacy of former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Sandra Day O'Connor, Governor DeWine ordered the flags of the United States and the state of Ohio to be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds throughout the state of Ohio immediately until sunset on Tuesday, the day of her interment.

Governor DeWine and Ohio Environmental



Protection Agency Director Anne M. Vogel announced that funding is now available to help local communities improve road salt storage and distribution practices in a manner that reduces salt pollution in Ohio's waterways.

The H2Ohio Chloride Reduction Grant Program will award a total of approximately \$1 million in funding to local municipalities for equipment upgrades that will prevent the over application of salt on Ohio roads and reduce the amount of salt running off into Ohio's streams, rivers, and lakes.

"Road salt plays an incredibly important role in road safety, but we must also consider the impact of this salt on the quality of Ohio's water," said Governor DeWine. "This program will help local communities apply salt in a way that effectively treats slippery roads while also reducing the amount of salt that runs off the roads and into the water."

Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2023-13D, which updates the Healthcare Common Procedural Coding System (HCPCS) for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Governor DeWine announce over 100 pardons in the Expedited Pardon Project.

Governor DeWine announced that more than 100 pardons have been granted as part of the Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project.

As of today, 108 individuals have received expedited pardons through this unique program.



The Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project eliminates administrative hurdles in the complex pardon application process and provides free one-on-one support from partnering law schools in Ohio. Pardon requests submitted through the Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project are also fast-tracked for consideration by the Ohio Parole Board and, ultimately, the governor.

"Those who've transformed their lives after a criminal conviction deserve an opportunity to live up to their God-given potential," said Governor DeWine. "The pardons I've had the privilege of issuing as part of this program affirm the positive changes that the recipients have made in their post-conviction lives and allow them to let go of the mistakes that have been holding them back."

Thursday, December 21, 2023



Lt. Governor Jon Husted spoke at the unveiling for a new state historical marker at the site of the former CompuServe World Headquarters in Upper Arlington. The building opened 50 years ago and continues to serve as a reminder of the significant role that CompuServe and Central Ohio played in launching the online revolution that brought us resources that seem essential to us.

Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Husted, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced support for the rehabilitation of dozens of historic buildings across the state.

In total, 46 projects involving the renovation of 54 buildings will be awarded \$67,517,474 in tax



credits as part of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit program. The projects are also expected to leverage approximately \$732 million in private investments.

"Historic preservation is so much more than just updating old buildings. We're preserving what exists and making concerted efforts to weave this history into the fabric of Ohio's future," said Governor DeWine. "By restoring our historical assets, we're ensuring that these structures remain part of their communities for years to come."

"Historic preservation is a recognition of our past and an investment in our future," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Each and every project that's completed becomes a new business or housing for residents and once again contributes to the local economy and future of the community."

Friday, December 22, 2023

Governor DeWine and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik today announced that 18 East Palestine businesses will receive a total of more than \$3.3 million in forgivable loans to assist with their recovery from February's train derailment.

"The strong business community here in East Palestine is more than just the backbone of the local economy, it's the heart and soul of this town," said Governor DeWine. "By supporting these businesses, we're giving them the tools to recover and restore jobs, services, and the vibrancy of their community."

"The economic health of East Palestine relies on the resilience of its businesses," said Director Mihalik. "The impact of these loans goes beyond dollars and cents - it's about positioning these businesses for recovery and long-term success."

The loans were approved through the Ohio Department of Development's East Palestine Emergency Support Program, which launched in August to provide loans to businesses impacted by the train derailment. Businesses are eligible to apply for 0% interest, forgivable loans ranging from \$10,000 to \$1 million to assist with ongoing expenses and recovery efforts. In total, \$5 million was made available for the program.

Governor DeWine Announces \$84 Million in Grants to Protect Ohio Families from Toxic Lead

December 14, 2023 (COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced awards for projects that will help protect Ohioans from the dangers of toxic lead.

The Lead Safe Ohio program will allocate \$84 million to support lead mitigation and prevention projects in residential properties, childcare facilities, and congregate care facilities in 72 counties across the state.

"Behind every instance of lead exposure is a person and a future put at risk," said Governor DeWine. "This funding signifies a decisive step in our mission to protect our most vulnerable citizens and create a healthier and safer Ohio for generations to come."

The \$84,321,999 in funds will be allocated as follows:

- \$50.3 million for owner-occupied homes
- \$17.3 million for rental properties
- \$6.5 million for childcare facilities
- \$1.5 million for congregate care shelters

"We want to create a safe environment for all children in Ohio, and lead poisoning can have lasting effects on the ability for our young people to learn, grow, and thrive," said Lt. Governor Husted. "By removing this health hazard from our communities, we're helping ensure the future leaders of our state have the tools to live up to their fullest potential."

The Lead Safe Ohio Program was established in partnership with the 134th Ohio General Assembly, which funded the program in House Bill 45 with \$150 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. In total, the Lead Safe Ohio pro-

gram will award nearly \$100 million for lead prevention and mitigation activities in eligible properties built before lead-based paint was outlawed in 1978.

Lead Safe Ohio

The funding awards announced today will be used toward projects such as waterline replacement, window and door replacement, siding enclosure, soft-fit enclosure, porch component repair, and lead cleaning efforts. Funding is available to entities in all 88 counties based on high-risk ZIP codes, the number of homes built before 1980, and the percentage of low-to-moderate-income households in the state.

The program, announced by Governor DeWine in May, is administered by the Ohio Department of Development, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Health.

"We've all known the risks of lead exposure for decades and in Ohio, we're turning awareness in-

to action," said Director Mihalik. "By working with our local partners to identify at-risk properties and facilitate these crucial repairs, we're building safer neighborhoods and improving the quality of life for thousands of Ohioans."

Lead poisoning is most commonly caused by lead-based paint, which produces chips and dust when deteriorating. While lead poisoning can affect individuals of all ages, children are at the greatest risk. Children's bodies are more susceptible to the harmful effects of lead and are less able to detoxify their bodies of the harmful substance. Long-term exposure to lead can impact physical and mental health and the ability to learn and earn an income. More information about the dangers of lead poisoning can visit the Ohio Department of Health website.

Governor DeWine Announces Guidelines for \$750 Million All Ohio Future Fund

December 15, 2023 (COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced details of the new All Ohio Future Fund, which will provide \$750 million to local communities to help increase the state's inventory of project-ready economic development sites.

Funding awarded through the All Ohio Future Fund will be used toward one-time local infrastructure costs that are necessary to prepare sites for future economic development projects.

"Increasing our inventory of project-ready sites is imperative for continued economic growth," said Governor Mike DeWine. "With the help of this program, we will usher in a new era of economic development for Ohio, fueling opportunity for generations to come."

The DeWine-Husted Administration created the All Ohio Future Fund in partnership with the Ohio General Assembly as part of the current operating budget.

"As more businesses look to create a do-

mestic supply chain, and because Ohio is a great place to work and do business, there is a demand for job-ready sites for businesses to locate and grow," said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "We are preparing Ohio to protect America's economic and national security by making more of the products we need to live and thrive."

The Ohio Department of Development will administer the program in coordination with the Office of Budget and Management. Development released detailed guidelines on the program today, including project requirements and eligibility.

More information: Project Requirements and Eligibility

"Through the All Ohio Future Fund, communities can set themselves up to be the next great economic success story in Ohio," said Director Mihalik. "By fostering a landscape of opportunity across our state, we not only attract investments but lay the foundation for sustainable development, ensuring a prosperous future for Ohio communities and businesses alike."

The program application will open in early

2024 to local government entities, including counties, cities, villages, townships, port authorities, community improvement corporations, transportation improvement districts, land banks, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations willing to develop project-ready sites. Applications will be received and awarded on a rolling basis.

Awardees will be expected to find site occupants within five years. Eligible costs include public roadwork, water and wastewater infrastructure, design and engineering, demolition, wetland mitigation, utility gap funding, and one-time site enhancements. Funding will primarily come in the form of 0% interest loans that may be partially forgivable.

The Ohio Department of Development will provide an Indication of Interest outline for interested applicants to use in early 2024. Indications of interest will be accepted following final Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) approval of the Rules. Additional details will be made available on the program webpage.

"The All Ohio Future Fund is part of the bold vision from the collaboration of the DeWine Husted Administration and state legislature, which will continue the economic momentum our state's achieved since 2019," said JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef. "The critical need for strategic sites throughout Ohio is key to success for both companies and communities building for today and investing for a prosperous tomorrow."

Development staff will host a webinar at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 5, to present the guidelines in detail and allow interested parties to ask questions. Registration will be available on the program webpage. For updates, sign up for email notifications.

Program information and full guidelines can be found on the program webpage. Rules are subject to approval from the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review and are subject to change.

