

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

For the week ending July 12, 2024

Monday, July 8, 2024



Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted traveled to Ada to speak at the grand opening of the new Wilson Football Factory and participate in a tour of the facility.

Wilson footballs have been produced in Ada, Ohio since 1955 and are the official game balls of the NFL. The NFL recently announced a multi-year extension of its long-running partnership, which means the company will continue to make the league's official football.

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced nearly \$900,000 in grants to support law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocacy groups in their shared goal of supporting sexual assault survivors and holding attackers accountable.

"Those who commit sexual assault are among the worst of the worst, and we're providing these resources not only to get predators off the streets but also to ensure that survivors have ongoing access to support," said Governor DeWine.

Tuesday, July 9, 2024



Lt. Governor Husted, director of InnovateOhio

Ohio, and Andy Wilson, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, were joined by law enforcement leaders to announce a new resource that will assist local law enforcement agencies with recruitment efforts. The new, user-friendly, and free online resource, powered by OhioMeansJobs.com, aims to better connect law enforcement agencies across the state with potential employees, addressing a need brought forward by law enforcement officials.

"Our administration has always aimed to invest in the tools that law enforcement agencies need to keep our communities safe, and right now, many sheriffs and police chiefs are telling us that their greatest need is more staff," said Governor DeWine. "With support from OhioMeansJobs, we're now making it easier than ever for agencies all over the state to attract qualified law enforcement professionals to fill job openings."

"Our law enforcement agencies are struggling to fill their essential positions, which are crucial for safe communities," said Lt. Governor Husted. "This specialized recruitment tool will give them a recruiting edge and save them time and money."

Thursday, July 11, 2024

The state of Ohio has further solidified its position as a premier business destination, climbing from No. 12 in 2023 to No. 7 in CNBC's annual America's Top States for Business 2024 rankings.

This improvement reflects Ohio's sustained economic momentum, robust business attraction efforts, and strategic investments in innovation, infrastructure, and workforce development. The No. 7 ranking is Ohio's best since CNBC started the annual rankings in 2007.

"From Ohio's inventory of construction-ready industrial sites to our reliable energy and water resources, there are so many compelling advantages to doing business in the heart of it all," said Governor DeWine. "When coupled with Ohio's tax and regulatory policies that reduce risk, cut red tape, and accelerate access to domestic and international markets, we're ensuring that businesses have everything they need for success."

"Ohio is a top state for business because we're also the best place to live, work, and raise a family," added Governor DeWine. "Ohio's rise in numerous national rankings demonstrates why Ohio is the heart of it all. It's not just our business-friendly policies but also our exceptional quality of life, affordable cost of living, and the opportunities we offer for all skill levels."

"This validates what we already know: Ohio is a great place to do business. This is evidenced by the new businesses moving to Ohio and the growth and expansion of existing businesses and entrepreneurs," said Lt. Governor Husted. "Over time, we have cut taxes and regulations, improved the quality of our infrastructure and workforce, and maintained affordability. Ohio offers a high quality of life and solid Midwestern values."

Governor DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine attended the unveiling of Young's Jersey Dairy's new carousel named "Cowtherine's Carousel." Young's is known for its homemade ice cream and has been serving the Yellow Springs community since 1869.

Friday, July 12, 2024



Governor DeWine, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Director Stephen Dackin, and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Maj. Gen. (U.S. Army, retired) Deborah Ashenhurst introduced an initiative to encourage military members to continue their call to service by working in Ohio schools.

Through the new Military Recruit Award program, schools can now offer a \$3,000 hiring bonus for service members, veterans, and their spouses to join the education workforce in Ohio. "In Ohio, we are proud to support members of the military and their families," said Governor DeWine. "This program is not only a win for our service members, but also for our students. What they will gain from these heroes goes beyond textbooks. They will have a front-row seat to learn about important life values like duty, integrity, respect, and courage. I look forward to seeing the positive benefits our Military Recruit Award will bring to entire communities."

Governor DeWine Cuts Ribbon on New Welcome Center in Ashtabula County



July 01, 2024

Governor DeWine cuts the ribbon on the new Ashtabula County I-90 westbound Welcome Center.

(CONNEAUT, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio Department of Development (DOD) Director Lydia Mihalik, and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks cut the ribbon on the newly re-imagined Ashtabula County I-90 westbound Welcome Center, unveiling a place that tells Ohio's story of Lake Erie, Ashtabula County's covered bridges, and so many other magnificent attractions.

The Ashtabula Welcome Center, just inside Ohio's northeastern border, features Ohio's agritourism and fishing industries, Historic Ashtabula Harbor, Port Conneaut Marina, Holden Arboretum, Smolen-Gulf Covered Bridge, North Coast WWII Museum, Ashtabula Arts Center, Geneva State Park, James A. Garfield National Historic site, Hubbard House Underground Railroad Museum, Ashtabula County's covered bridges, and the Lake Metroparks Farmpark. It's part of Governor DeWine's vision to greatly improve the traveler experience for the thousands of visitors who stop at Ohio rest areas every day.

"Ohio is the heart of it all - whether you're visiting a Lake Erie beach, fishing for walleye, or touring a lighthouse or covered bridge, we want travelers to find their next vacation inspiration when they stop at our Ashtabula Welcome Cen-

ter," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "Outside the Ashtabula Welcome Center, families can stroll through the Ohio native plants and trees or the Storybook Trail, which features a Dolly Parton Imagination Library book."

At the Ashtabula County Welcome Center, the Storybook Trail features "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle. There are currently 14 Storybook Trails at Ohio rest areas statewide, with plans for an additional two by the end of the year.

"By reimagining our rest areas, we're creating a better experience for everyone and inspiring future travel plans," said DOD Director Lydia Mihalik. "Our hope, ultimately, is that travelers, having caught a glimpse of what they can experience

in Northeast Ohio, will be inspired to explore more, extend their stay, and hopefully one day return!"

covered bridgeConneaut local artist Walter Gunter's State Road Covered Bridge model is also on display, which won the Ashtabula Covered Bridge Festival contest last year.

Ohio's rest area work also includes partnerships to empower Ohioans. The Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio Department of Development worked with the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) to provide the stunning signage throughout the Ashtabula Welcome Center. Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provides entrepreneurs who are legally blind the chance to manage vending services. People of various abilities are offered opportunities in janitorial and groundskeeping work.

"The new rest area improvements and ongoing maintenance are a testament to our commitment to supporting the independence of people

with disabilities," said ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks. "These types of partnerships and contracts embody our core values to ensure all Ohioans have the opportunities to thrive."

The Ohio rest area project includes a plan to build 33 new rest areas and upgrade dozens more by the end of 2026.

In 2023, visitors to Ohio generated \$56 billion in visitor spending plus indirect sales, which supported nearly 436,000 jobs.



Governor DeWine Announces New Safety Projects Funded Through Safe Routes to School Program

July 02, 2024 (COLUMBUS, Ohio)— Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Jack Marchbanks today announced an investment of more than \$8 million in projects that focus on the safety of children who walk or bike to school.

ODOT is awarding the funding as part of its Safe Routes to School program, which supports education initiatives and builds infrastructure such as sidewalks and enhanced pedestrian crossings. This year, the program is funding 29 projects in 19 counties.

"Creating the opportunity for children to walk and bike to school is so important, and this funding will help communities ensure that these routes are as safe as possible," said Governor DeWine. "Motorists should also do their part by paying attention, especially in and around schools."

Safe Routes to School funding will cover project development; right of way acquisition; construction; non-infrastructure programming; and school travel planning activities.

DETAILS: List of Safe Routes to School Grant Awards
List of type of projects funded

Two projects receiving Safe Routes to School funding also qualified for support

through ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program. Projects are competitively selected by a committee made up of subject matter experts from ODOT and the Ohio Department of Health

based on the ability to demonstrate improved bike or pedestrian connectivity, improved safety, number of students impacted, economic need, and available funding.

"As an avid cyclist myself, I am encouraged to see so much demand from young Ohioans to get on a bike or walk to get to school. It is our responsibility to give this next generation safer infrastructure to enjoy these modes of transportation," said ODOT Director Jack Marchbanks.

Since its inception in 2005, ODOT's Safe Routes to School program has provided more than \$83 million to schools, municipalities, health districts, park districts, or key non-profit partners to improve safety for students.