Medina County Commissioners' Newsletter

Medina County Ohio

JUNE 12, 2026

New program helps seniors access fresh, local produce

A new community partnership is helping Medina County seniors enjoy fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer and fall.

The Medina County Senior & Adult Foundation has launched a new produce voucher program that will provide up to 200 eligible Medina County residents, age 60 and older, with $50 in vouchers to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at the Medina Farmers Market on the Historic Medina Square.

The program is designed to assist seniors who were unable to secure benefits through the State of Ohio Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

Beginning tomorrow, June 13, eligible seniors may receive the vouchers by visiting the Main Street Medina red tent at the Medina Farmers Market on Saturday mornings.

The vouchers may be used exclusively at the Medina Farmers Market through October 10, 2026, helping seniors access nutritious, locally sourced produce while supporting local farmers and vendors.

The initiative is made possible through funding provided by the Medina County Senior & Adult Foundation, with Main Street Medina coordinating program logistics and voucher distribution.

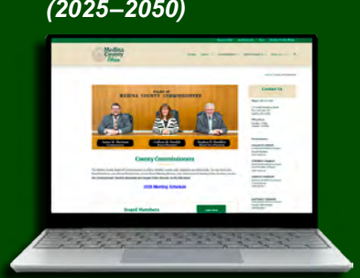
Laura Toth

"This program, along with the Wadsworth Farmers Market Program and the State of Ohio Voucher Program, helps ensure seniors throughout Medina County have opportunities to receive fresh produce throughout the summer season," said Laura Toth, Director of Medina County Senior & Adult Services.

County officials expressed their appreciation to the Medina County Senior & Adult Foundation and Main Street Medina for their partnership and commitment to improving the health and well-being of Medina County seniors.

Visit the Commissioners' Webpage at www.medinaco.org/county-commissioners/ *for more information on:*

- ***Board Members***
- ***Resolutions***
- ***Meeting Agendas***
- ***Board Meeting Minutes***
- ***Bid Projects***
- ***Commissioner Meeting Video Archives***
- ***Commissioners' Newsletter Archives***
- ***Public Records Requests***
- ***Medina County's Demographic Future (2025–2050)***



Skip the bin, turn your batteries in

Medina County Residents — join us in preventing battery fires by properly disposing of your Lithium, NiCad, Button Cell, or Lead Acid batteries.

Many of our favorite everyday things run on batteries, but when tossed in the regular trash or recycling bins these batteries can spark intense fires that are nearly impossible to stop.

These kinds of fires are happening more often and have destroyed homes, garbage trucks, recycling centers and have even sadly taken lives.

An overheated battery can go from 212° F to 1800° F in the blink of an eye. *(Source: Clemson University.)*

Lithium batteries are everywhere: Electronics, small appliances and power tools, portable devises, toys, greeting cards, E-bikes; the list goes on and on!

In 2025, there were 448 publicly reported fire incidents at waste and recycling facilities across the U.S. and Canada averaging $22 million in damages because of lithium batteries.

The good news? Battery fires are easily preventable. Never throw Lithium, NiCad, Button Cell, or Lead Acid batteries in trash or recycling bins.

Always tape the connections and drop them off at a safe collection site, like our Specialty Waste Facility at 8730 Lake Rd., Seville, which is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m.–12 noon.

Continued on page 2

JOB & FAMILY SERVICES

SNAP now accepted at 112 Ohio Farmers Markets

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Matt Damschroder announced May 20 that Ohioans receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits can use their Ohio Direction Card at 112 farmers markets across the state to purchase fresh, locally grown food.

"With farmers market season now in full swing across Ohio, there's no better time for SNAP recipients to stretch their benefits, support local growers, and put fresh food on the table," said Director Damschroder. "We want every Ohioan we serve to know this resource is available to them."

Participating markets display signs indicating they accept SNAP, EBT, or the Ohio Direction Card.

In most cases, cardholders use their Ohio Direction Card to purchase tokens at the market, which can then be used to buy eligible food items.

Any unused tokens can be carried over to a future visit, or cardholders can receive a refund back to their card before leaving.

SNAP helps low-income individuals and families supplement their household food budgets.

The Ohio Direction Card works like a standard bank debit card and is accepted at participating markets throughout the state.

ODJFS has produced a video walking both shoppers and market organizers through how to participate. Additional information is available at jfs.ohio.gov.

For a directory of participating markets, visit the Ohio Farmers Market EBT Directory.

For recipes and healthy food tips, visit CelebrateYourPlate.org.

Markets or recipients interested in participating can find more information on the ODJFS website.

Need help feeding your kids when school is out for the summer?

Learn how Ohio's Summer EBT/SUN Bucks program can help you!

How does it work?

Summer EBT, also called SUN Bucks, is an Ohio program that helps families buy food for school-aged children during the summer. Eligible families receive $120 per child to purchase groceries, and children can still participate in other summer meal programs. Benefits are loaded onto a Summer EBT card mailed to your home or added to your existing Ohio Direction Card. The card can be used at grocery stores, farmers markets, and other locations that accept SNAP EBT to buy approved foods such as fruits, vegetables, meat, whole grains, and dairy.

Scan the QR code to find where you can use SNAP!

Is my child eligible?

Your child is eligible for Ohio Summer EBT/SUN Bucks if:

- Your household already participates in SNAP
  - Your child's benefits will be automatically added to their Ohio Direction card and do NOT need to apply. If you participated last year in SEBT, your benefits will be reloaded on that same card, and you don't need a new one.
- Your child attends a school that offers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or School Breakfast Program (SBP), and your student has a free or reduced-price lunch application filed.
- Your child participates in Medicaid or OWF and your household income is at or below 185% of the FPL, they'll be automatically enrolled but will receive a new card in the mail.

Recently Moved?

Update your address to ensure your Summer EBT/SUN Bucks benefits are sent to the correct address!

Scan the QR code to locate your local Job and Family Service office to submit the change of address form.

Want to make your dollar go further at the grocery store?

Find easy, budget-friendly recipes at celebrateyourplate.org

Celebrating those who provide 'Warmth of Home'

by Layne Hedden
Foster Care Recruiter

Last week, we gathered for our 2026 Foster Parent Banquet, and enjoyed a fantastic evening together. This year's theme, "Warmth of Home," could not have been more fitting as we celebrated the foster families who open their hearts and homes to children in need every day.

We invited everyone to come dressed "comfy and cozy," and our foster parents and staff fully embraced the theme.

From cozy sweats to slippers and pajamas, the room felt relaxed, welcoming, and full of laughter from the moment guests arrived.

We kicked off the evening with a fun ice-breaker Bingo game that had foster parents and staff mingling around the room trying to find people who matched the descriptions on their cards.

It was a great way to get conversations started and welcome some of our newer families and staff.

Dinner this year was a crowd favorite — breakfast

Continued on page 4

Skip the bin, turn your batteries in...

Continued from page 1

You can also take them to the Brunswick City Fire Department, Brunswick Hills Fire Department, Hinckley Fire Department, Liverpool Township Fire Department, and Medina County Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

They are working in conjunction with Recycle Medina County to properly dispose of your Lithium, NiCad, Button Cell, or Lead Acid batteries. In 2025 Medina County residents properly disposed of 13.81 tons of batteries!

So, remember what your pal Woodsy Owl says… "Skip the bin, turn your batteries in!"

SENIOR & ADULT SERVICES

Photo by Brian S. Gallatin

Medina County Commissioners proclaimed Monday, June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in the county. Accepting the proclamation were representatives from Medina County Senior & Adult Services and Medina County Job & Family Services, who work every day to ensure seniors are safe.

County recognizes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is commemorated annually on June 15. Launched by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and recognized by the United Nations, the day serves as a global call to action to identify, address, and prevent the mistreatment of older adults.

Elder abuse is a severe public health and human rights issue. It is defined as any act that causes harm to a person age 60 and up, typically by someone they know and trust. Forms of abuse include:

- Financial Exploitation – Theft, scams, or misuse of an elder's funds or property.
- Physical & Emotional Abuse – Inflicting physical pain, injury, or psychological distress.
- Neglect & Abandonment – Failure to fulfill caregiving duties, which includes denying basic needs like food, medicine, or hygiene.

Recognizing the signs of mistreatment is vital to protecting vulnerable older adults:

- Physical – Unexplained bruises, burns, or fractures.
- Financial – Unexplained withdrawals, sudden changes in bank accounts, or unpaid bills despite having adequate income.
- Emotional/Behavioral – Sudden withdrawal from normal activities, unusual fear or anxiety, or hesitance to speak freely when a caregiver is present.

If you suspect elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, call the Medina County Adult Protective Services hotline at 330-661-0800.

Department Directory

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
www.medinaco.org/building-department
330-722-9220

COMMISSIONERS
www.medinaco.org/county-commissioners
330-722-9208

COUNTY HOME
http://medinacountyhome.com
330-723-9553

DOG SHELTER
www.medinaco.org/dog-shelter
330-725-9121

FINANCE
No website
330-722-9205

HUMAN RESOURCES
www.medinaco.org/hr
330-722-9209

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES
www.mcjfs.us
330-722-9300

PLANNING SERVICES
www.medinaco.org/planning
330-722-9293

SANITARY ENGINEER
www.medinaco.org/sanitary
330-723-9585

SENIOR & ADULT SERVICES
www.mcsas.org
330-723-9514

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
http://recyclemedinacounty.com
330-769-0289

TRANSIT
http://medinacountytransit.org
330-723-9670

Click here to visit our website with the full directory of public officials at www.medinaco.org

Celebrating those who provide 'Warmth of Home'...

Continued from page 2

for dinner! Families enjoyed a comforting meal together while catching up with one another and connecting with staff.

One of our favorite parts of the evening was our "Comfort Station." Families were invited to fill a duffle bag with necessities and comfort items to keep on hand for children who may be placed in their homes.

Thanks to the generosity of community donors, the station was stocked with toiletries, books, stuffed animals, blankets, diapers, towels, clothing, and more.

During the evening, Program Supervisor Sharon Holmes shared heartfelt remarks about the purpose behind the theme.

Holding up a trash bag, she reminded everyone that many children enter foster care carrying their belongings in bags like these and often arrive feeling scared, uncertain, and overwhelmed.

"When we call you and you take placement, we know that they will find a warm and welcoming home with our foster families," Sharon shared. "You will become 'their person' who they lean on when they need that comfort."

She encouraged families to fill their duffle bags with items that could help provide comfort to children entering care and reminded everyone that even the smallest acts of kindness can help a child feel safe and cared for.

Agency Director Debbie Kiley also shared remarks during the evening, thanking foster parents for the vital role they play in caring for children in Medina County and for the compassion, stability, and love they provide to children and families every day.

To continue the "Warmth of Home" theme, each

table featured a bouquet made of colorful socks, and everyone was invited to take home a pair as a reminder that every foster parent has the ability to become a "comfy, cozy" adult for a child in need — whether for a season or a lifetime.

Thanks to generous donations from our community, we were also able to send a gift basket home with every single foster family who attended the banquet.

The baskets featured a variety of fun themes, including movie night, family game night, grilling, gardening, pampering, sundae bar, lottery cards, chocolate, picnic, coffee, taco night, and many more.

Families had so much fun browsing the baskets, and we are incredibly thankful to everyone who donated items to help make the evening extra special.

We are especially grateful to Heartland Community Church's Friends for Foster Families team for providing childcare during the event so families could relax and enjoy the evening without worrying about childcare arrangements.

The evening also included a special recognition for longtime foster parent Jan Radachy, who is retiring after an incredible 47 years as a foster parent.

Earlier this month, the Medina County Commissioners presented Jan with a proclamation honoring her years of dedication and service. We were honored to celebrate her and thank her for the countless lives she has impacted over the years.

We are so grateful for every foster parent, kinship caregiver, staff member, volunteer, church partner, and community donor who helped make this event possible.

Thank you for providing the warmth of home to children and families when they need it most.

THANK YOU

TO ALL OUR GENEROUS
GIFT BASKET DONORS
AND SPONSORS:

Cleveland Clinic – Medina Hospital
SPARK Medina
Ravago Medina
The Children's Center of Medina
The Learning Garden
New Hill Church
Shirley Berry & Julie Dodson
Linda Innocenti
Karoline Kraillo
Norma Haas

THANK YOU

TO THE CLEVELAND CLINIC
DEPARTMENTS WHO DONATED OR
SPONSORED GIFT BASKETS:

2 South
4 South
Care Management
Dr. Shewbridge & Mrs. Shewbridge
ED
Hospital Medicine APP
ICU
Inpatient Pharmacy
Jones Center
Materials Management
Medina Inpatient Pharmacy
Nuclear Medicine
Nursing Operations Manager
Outpatient Pharmacy
PACU/ENDO
Park West Surgical Center Team
Rehab Services
Sterile Processing
Ultrasound

Current Open Positions

Postings current as of June 12, 2026

Click on any of the below job titles for a full job description.

- **Building Inspector** *(Int.)* – Building Permits
- **Bus Driver** *(FT)* – Transit
- **Civil Engineer I** *(FT)* – County Engineer
- **Cleaning Technician** *(PT/FT)* – Maintenance Department
- **Clerk, Democratic** *(FT)* – Board of Elections
- **Business Administrator** *(FT)* – Job & Family Services
- **Electrical Inspector** *(Int.)* – Building Permits
- **Juvenile Probation Intake Officer** *(FT)* – Common Pleas Court, Probate & Juvenile Divisions
- **Police Officer** *(FT)* – Park District
- **Wastewater Plant Operator** *(FT)* – Sanitary
- **Water System Computer Operator** *(FT)* – Sanitary Engineer

(Int.) = Intermittent
(FT) = Full-Time • (PT) = Part-Time

Click here to download an Employment Application!

Enjoy the BENEFITS of working for Medina County! Apply Today!

Click here to visit our website for any updates: www.medinaco.org/hr/employment/

HUMAN RESOURCES

BUS DRIVER (FULL-TIME)
MEDINA COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT

The Medina County Public Transit is seeking to fill a Bus Driver position.

Duties and Responsibilities: Operates an 8–12 accessible passenger bus on a demand-response basis; Receives daily electronic driving assignments and schedules and modifies routes as directed by dispatcher based on passenger cancellations, transfers, no shows, or other changes caused by changing service needs; Picks up and discharges passengers and collects fares; Maintains communication with dispatcher using 2-way radio related to assigned routes/schedules; Maintains scheduled route and trips as directed by dispatcher; Promotes a positive image of Medina County & Medina County Public Transit (MCPT) by fostering positive public relations; Provides passengers with schedule and route information; Assists passengers needing help boarding and departing vehicle. Ensures bus and passenger safety by enforcing rules of conduct and operation; Adheres to check-in and check-out times as scheduled; Assists with other routes when breakdowns or other unusual circumstances occur as assigned;

Qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED
- Three (3) years of verifiable driving experience and one (1) year of experience dealing with the general-public or any equivalent combination of acceptable education and experience providing the knowledge, abilities, and skills cited above
- Valid Ohio driver's license and proof of adequate vehicle insurance
- No record of more than two total moving violations and/or accidents within the last 3 years
- No record of operating a vehicle while under the influence (OWI)
- No serious accidents within the last five years
- No record of operating a vehicle while under the influence
- No record of revoked or suspended driver's license in last five years
- No record of hit and run accidents
- Meet DOT standards for Transit Drivers required by the USDOT

Schedule: Monday – Friday, Saturdays

Wage: $17.14 per hour

Apply: Submit resume with qualifications to Shannon Rine, Transit Director srine@medinacounty.gov

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Summer mowing tips to protect local streams

by Abby Costilow
Watershed Education Specialist

Summer is around the corner! Flowers are blooming, fields are getting planted, trees are sporting leaves, and lawns are growing so fast they seem to need to be mowed every other day.

While fresh-cut grass is a sign of the season, grass clippings can be a problem when they find their way to the street or a ditch, threatening the health of our waterways.

Rain washes debris from streets, parking lots, and ditches directly into streams unfiltered. Even though grass clippings and yard debris come from nature, they can harm our waterways by unnaturally adding too many nutrients at once.

Think of it like sugar: our bodies need some sugar, and slow-release sugars like fruits are better for us than processed sugar like candy or pop. Similarly, streams benefit from slow-release nutrients like a decaying log or a few fallen leaves, but large amounts of grass clippings, mulch, raked leaves, or fertilizer can overwhelm a stream's ecosystem and kill off aquatic life. Such additions of yard waste drastically spike a stream's nutrient level, making it unhealthy. This is one reason why dumping yard waste into a stream is illegal.

Adobe Stock

To help protect local waterways:

- Direct mower clippings onto your lawn, not the street.
- Mulch your grass rather than bagging it. This returns grass nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous to your lawn.
- Compost yard waste.
- Reduce yard size by planting native flowers or trees.

This summer, cut a bad habit — keep grass clippings where they belong: on your lawn.

For more information on preventing non-point source pollution, protecting streams, or composting, visit www.medinaswcd.org or contact Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District at 330-722-9322.

The Medina County Scam Squad is a financial fraud task force created by the Medina County Prosecutor's Office in conjunction with Medina Senior & Adult Services, that unites nonprofits, social service agencies and local, state and federal law enforcement in the fight against scams. Our goals are to:

- Educate Medina County residents about different types of scams.
- Encourage Medina County residents to report scams.
- Share scam reports with the agency best-suited to investigate.

If you suspect you are involved with a scammer, you are not alone.

We can help. Report suspicious calls and emails to the Scam Squad.

SCAM SQUAD

MEDINA COUNTY

1-877-SCAM-550

(1-877-722-6550)

COUNTY HOME

Hands-on pizza fun brings big smiles to residents

by Amber Czekaj
Recreation Coordinator

One of our volunteers came to the Medina County Home on Tuesday, June 2, to help residents make their very own personal pizzas.

She brought dough, sauce, cheese, pepperoni, sausage, mushrooms, onions, black olives, and peppers to top them off with. The residents then got to enjoy their pizzas right out of the oven.

Residents were smiling ear-to-ear after enjoying their delicious, personalized dish.

Harvest of Generosity from Medina Presbyterian Church

by Greg Brown, *Superintendent*

The Medina Presbyterian Church congregation delivered a beautiful cornucopia of fresh fruits and vegetables this week. Their generous donation included an impressive variety of produce: broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, celery, bell peppers, Brussels sprouts, corn on the cob, beets, mandarin oranges, blueberries, apples, and strawberries.

Thanks to this abundance, our partners at Aramark prepared a vibrant and delicious fruit salad for everyone to enjoy.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Medina Presbyterian Church for their continued support and generosity. Thank you!

River Styx Park

With warmer days finally settling in, residents embraced the pleasant weather with a refreshing walk at River Styx Park.

The outing marked a welcome transition back to outdoor activities — something many have been eagerly anticipating after months of unpredictable conditions. The scenic trails offered a perfect backdrop for conversation and exercise.

As always, the success of these outings is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers. Their time, energy, and enthusiasm help ensure that residents can enjoy safe and engaging experiences.

Summer Creativity

Residents at the Medina County Home embraced the spirit of summer on Thursday, May 28, when Access the Arts visited with a bright and imaginative craft project.

Participants spent the afternoon designing their own summer themed t-shirts in preparation for the Home's upcoming summer celebration party.

The crafting tables were filled with color and creativity as residents decorated their shirts with grass skirts, vibrant flower leis, stencils, and hand drawn artwork.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Janet and the dedicated volunteers from Access the Arts for bringing such a joyful activity to our residents.

Their generous time and enthusiasm helped create a memorable experience — and some fantastic fashion statements! Residents are already looking forward to wearing their custom shirts in just a few weeks as they kick off the summer season in style.

CONTACT US

Medina County Commissioners
144 North Broadway St., Room 201,
Medina, Ohio 44256

Office: 330-722-9208
Toll Free: 844-722-3800
Clerk: Rhonda Beck,
rbeck@medinacounty.gov

Commissioner Meetings are held every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us at:

www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners

Commissioners' Meeting Agenda & Public Meetings

To be added to our weekly Agenda and Public Meetings distribution list, please email Clerk of the Board Rhonda Beck at rbeck@medinacounty.gov and request to be added to the agenda distribution list.

Commissioners' Newsletter

To be added to our bimonthly newsletter mailing list, please contact Public Information Officer Brian Gallatin at bgallatin@medinacounty.gov, or visit our website at www.medinaco.org/newsletter-sign-up/