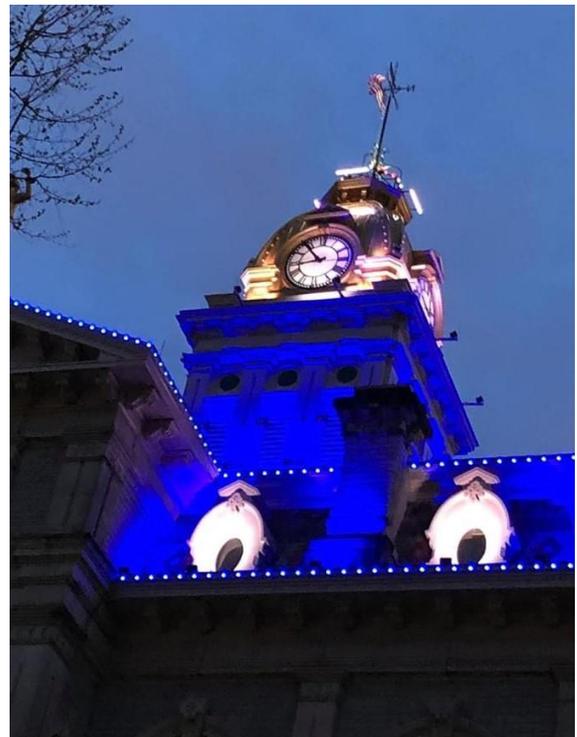


# **June 2020 Update**

**By Licking County Commissioner Tim Bubb**

**The spring of 2020 certainly has been a whirlwind of change and adaptation. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone's lives in countless ways large and small!**

**During May and into June the staffs of Licking County Government continue to perform in a combination of in-office and work-at-home assignments. It is important to stress that County Government did not close and did not miss a beat in terms of providing essential services in a myriad of ways.**



**In recent days we have provided safety adaptations to our various offices including glass and Plexiglas shields, or barriers at service counters to protect both the staff and the general public. Most offices are now or will shortly be open, and our buildings have remained open during the crisis. Still, we recommend calling first and if possible seeking service with a phone call or by e-mail.**

**Materials can be dropped off at any office that has yet to fully reopen. We recommend using face coverings and observing proper social distancing in the public spaces, for everyone's protection. For**

more specific information on the County's various departments please either call, e-mail or visit our website [www.lcounty.com](http://www.lcounty.com) for further information.

We support the work of Governor Mike DeWine and his continuing phase-in for the Ohio economy in May and June, and the state and county public health officials as they continue their heroic work. It has been a difficult task in recent weeks to blunt the effects of the pandemic and 'flatten the curve', and now safety phase-in the various elements of the economy. The good news is some 92-percent of the economy has reopened; the difficult news is unemployment remains at record highs and many businesses, while open, are far from the level of activity needed to sustain them.



As of this past week in Licking County here are the numbers as reported by the Ohio Department of Health and the County Health Department. In our County there have been 182-confirmed Covid-19 cases and 18-probable cases for a total of 200. To date they report 101 County residents have recovered from the virus and 89-are still recovering. To date there have been 10 total deaths Covid-19 related.

In Ohio, the Department of Health on May 26<sup>th</sup> reported 30,827 confirmed Covid-19 cases, 2,179 probable cases for a total of 33,006. Hospitalizations were 5,579. And tragically confirmed Covid-19 deaths were 1,803 with another 199 probable, for a total of 2,002.

**Typically, I use my update to summarize upcoming community activities, however it is now obvious most of the major public events that are highlights of summer have been cancelled or postponed. This past Memorial Day weekend was both outstanding weather wise, but also an example of our new 2020 reality without major public events.**

**One of the annual highlights is the Hartford Fair scheduled for the second week in August. Here is what the Fair Board is saying ...**

***“Our determination (as of mid-May) was to stay in a holding pattern. Once, Governor DeWine provides more information regarding Ohio's Fairs we will proceed with reviewing his recommendations. At this time, we are unsure if we will be able to provide the community with a full fair or part of a fair. We are doing everything possible to comply with our Local Health Department to accomplish a safe gathering. We have lengthened the project deadlines as far as we can for Livestock Projects. Finally, Camping Lots must be paid by June 1, 2020. All late fees have been waived for camping, however if the Camping Lot is not paid by the deadline it will be relinquished and enter the Lottery.”***



## Licking County Pandemic Relief Fund

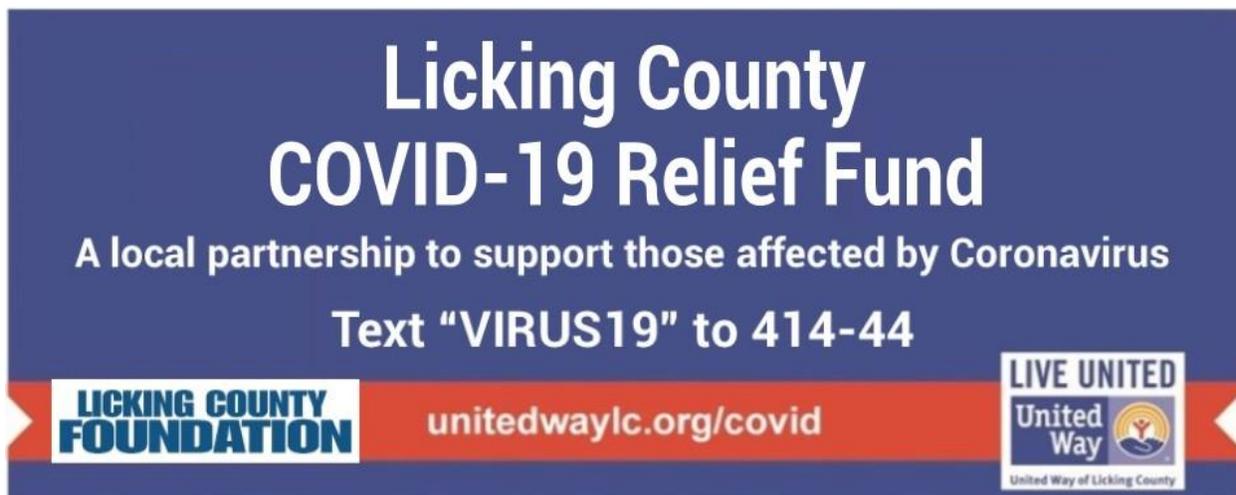
Local citizens continue to be generous in an on-going County COVID-19 Relief Fund.

United Way of Licking County, the Licking County Foundation and community partners have formed the Licking County COVID-19 Relief Fund. The mission of the Fund is to help meet the needs in Licking County that are directly related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Grants will be given to local organizations to help residents with their basic needs. Organizations that are meeting these needs and would like to apply for relief grants can go to [www.https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/65607-Licking-County-Foundation](https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/65607-Licking-County-Foundation)

<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/65607-Licking-County-Foundation>

They are encouraging the community, if you have the means, to please donate. There are three ways to donate: Text 'Virus19' to 414-44, go online to [www.unitedwaylc.org/covid](http://www.unitedwaylc.org/covid) or mail a check to United Way of Licking County PO Box 4490 Newark, OH 43058-4490. Please put COVID-19 in the memo line.

Contact Deb Dingus at [www.ddingus@unitedwaylc.org](mailto:www.ddingus@unitedwaylc.org) if you have any questions.



**Licking County  
COVID-19 Relief Fund**

A local partnership to support those affected by Coronavirus

Text "VIRUS19" to 414-44

**LICKING COUNTY  
FOUNDATION**

[unitedwaylc.org/covid](http://unitedwaylc.org/covid)

**LIVE UNITED**  
United Way  
United Way of Licking County

## **Construction Projects Continuing Countywide- Part II**

**It is important to note that while many segments of the economy such as retail, hospitality, tourism, entertainment and travel have taken a major hit during the pandemic shutdown; local construction projects have been pushing forward.**

**It is important that we also focus on continuing positive news, while at the same time slowly restarting other parts of the community's economy. I would like to share some additional updates as local projects progress in this unusual year.**

**It is not a major project but in June contractors will be working to repair the front of the Licking County Administration Building.**



**Last year some of the decorative stone trim on the front failed and it will be replaced to avoid the possibility of anyone being injured from falling stone. Window and caulking repairs will also be accomplished by the Robertson Company. The Administration Building was completed in 1976.**

**In addition, repair work continues on the Licking County Justice Center on East Main Street. Phase II work is limited to exterior repairs, as contractors are not permitted inside the jail to eliminate**

**the possibility of virus spread. To date the County jail remains Covid-19 free and healthy!**

**Two major school construction projects are underway in western Licking County, both by the Robertson Company of Heath. On Cable Road, in Pataskala, the new Licking Heights High School is more than half complete with work proceeding on the interior and parking lots. Originally scheduled to be done for the start of the 2020-21**

**school year that date may slide a bit due to pandemic construction delays and the**



**uncertainty as to the start of the school year. The plan then calls for the nearby current Licking Heights High School to be converted to a Middle School.**

**Meanwhile, at Smoke Road and U.S. Route 40 in Etna Township the walls are coming up on the massive new West Licking School District's new High**



**School. Scheduled for completion in 2021, the site also features a new elementary building also under construction. The nearby Watkins Memorial High School will become a Middle School.**

**In Granville Village and scheduled for completion later this year is the new Granville Township five bay fire station and headquarters building. The Robertson Company is handling this project just south**



**of the center of the Village on South Main Street. This site is also closer to the Intersection of Routes 16, 37 and 661 currently with an expansion construction project underway by ODOT (see story in this Update).**

**Last month we pictured the one million repair of a major culvert repair under State Route 79 (Hebron Road, on the south side of Heath near the TSC Store.**



**The major culvert and road washed away in the flash flooding of March 20<sup>th</sup>. ODOT and Heath City combined on the 'fast tracked' repair and this major north-south artery reopened on May 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**The explosion of development in western Licking County continues. In Etna Township the walls are up on TPA's new 1.2-million spec building on Mink Street Road. It is expected the building's future user(s) will be logistics, warehouse, distribution and e-commerce.**



**In addition to this building a second similar facility is under design by TPA, an Atlanta Developer, and it is expected in 2021 to break ground on this additional one million square foot facility just to the north at Mink and Refugee Roads.**

**Further south in Etna Township at U.S. Route 40 and west of State Route 310 work has slowed, due to the pandemic, on the new logistics, distribution and e-commerce center for retailer Kohl's.**



**Hiring and the installation of equipment at Kohl's will resume later this year with a likely opening in 2021. The developer for the project is the international firm CRG, and next year they will begin a second building in the same neighborhood and east of State Route 310. The additional CRG projects will include logistics and a retail component, with openings in late 2021 or 2022.**

## Economic Development Notes from Grow Licking County



Community Improvement Corp

- **GROW Licking County's Infrastructure Survey**

In its role as the county's economic development agent, GROW Licking County CIC released an updated infrastructure survey. The goal of the survey is to take inventory of various projects within the various municipalities within Licking County so that GROW Licking County can lend support to our partners re: project development as well as identify resources to support these projects.

Moreover, GROW LC is in the initial stages of reviewing the possible development of a revolving loan fund (RLF) to support infrastructure development within Licking County. As such, these results will help GROW determine if there is a need for the development of this tool as well as the scale in which GROW can pursue initial funds for the development of a RLF.

To take the survey, click here ...

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXi0wOLKlfK1dp1Wpold-Z4IbXrQ9CQIF4K3bVnN839motw/viewform>

or visit GROW's Facebook page for a recent post regarding this initiative.



**Licking County Works, a workforce partnership between OhioMeansJobs - Licking County, GROW Licking County, and the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, continues to promote new opportunities for residents looking for economic-based careers here in Licking County.**

**Starting June 1st and in collaboration with our local partners at RevLocal, the campaign will begin to highlight careers in some of Licking County's fastest growing industries including food production as well as advanced logistics featuring many of our most well-known and newest employers: Gathered Foods, creators of Good Catch Foods, Ohio Pack, Schwebel's, Carvana, Harry & David, and Amazon.**

***Be sure to follow Licking County Works on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, & Twitter for additional opportunities manufacturing, healthcare, finance, and logistics.***

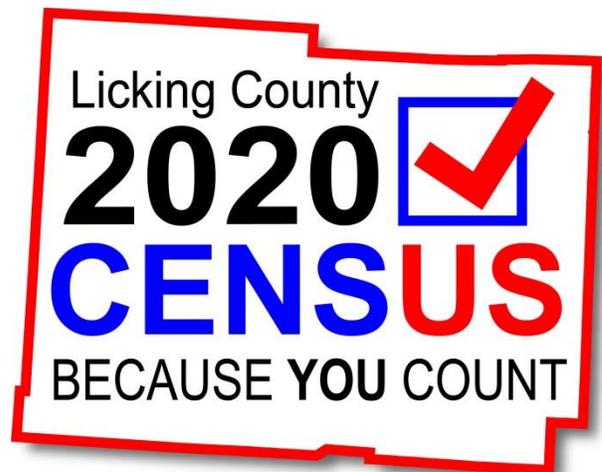
## Not Too Late For You to Be Counted – Census 2020

While delayed a bit – the 2020 Federal Census continues. The Census Bureau temporarily suspended 2020 Census field data collection activities in March. Steps are being taken to reactivate field offices beginning June 1st, in preparation for the resumption of field data collection operations as quickly as possible.

Here in Licking County residents have done well with the initial phase of responding to the on-line data collection at [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) if you have not done so – visit the on-line site today!

Here in Licking County the overall response rate is to date about 69-percent or basically seven in every ten households. There are two areas still lagging - Buckeye Lake Village and some neighborhoods in the City of Newark. These areas and certain targeted 'hard to reach' populations will continue to be the focus of the County's Complete Count Census Task Force.

Early this summer the Census Field Staff's in-person activities, including all interaction with the public, enumeration, office work and processing activities, will incorporate the most current guidance to promote the health and safety of staff and the public. This will include recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) and social distancing practices.



**Once 2020 Census data collection is complete, the Census Bureau begins a lengthy, thorough and scientifically rigorous process to produce the apportionment counts, redistricting information and other statistical data products that help guide hundreds of billions of dollars in public and private sector spending per year.**

## **Update from Martha Tykodi of the West Licking Historical Society**

**The West Licking Historical Society, like all other such organizations, is "on hold" for a while as is the Mead-Needham Museum in Pataskala, but we extend our concern for the entire community as we hope to deal successfully with this pandemic.**

**Historically, we all know 1918 and the Spanish Influenza presented a similar problem and it was finally solved. However, the lesson to be learned is that nature will always have one more challenge for man; no matter how advanced we think we are.**

**Martha adds, "At the WLHS we do plan to be back on task someday. Be safe! And indeed, it is a challenge!"**

## Licking County Master Gardener Volunteers

*By MG Coordinator Lori Swihart of OSU Extension*

As summer weather arrives, many are into their own gardens and warm weather planting season. The OSU Extension we have been mandated by the University to cancel all face-to-face programming and events through to July 6th. This mandate is to protect our 3,000-plus volunteers throughout the state from Covid-19. This will include the sixty two Licking



County Master Gardener Volunteers from working in their Learning Garden on East Main Street. Because of this, we have cancelled the open house that was scheduled for Saturday, July 18.

I would like to share that our State Master Gardener Volunteer website is providing webinars for anyone with an interest in gardening. Interested individuals must register for upcoming classes (check weekly) and can even view recordings of past programs. Many topics to choose from, including Pollinators, Gardening as We Age, Pest Control, Hydrangeas and more. Click this link to view: [www. https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/mgvs-horticulture-lunch-and-learn-and-happy-hour-information-and-registration](https://mastergardener.osu.edu/news/mgvs-horticulture-lunch-and-learn-and-happy-hour-information-and-registration)

We have been busy during our work from home updating and adding to our web page in the county website to deliver more educational gardening information.

I urge gardeners to check it out at: [www. https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers](https://licking.osu.edu/program-areas/master-gardener-volunteers)

## **Long Awaited Expansion of Granville Interchange Underway**

**On May 4<sup>th</sup> construction work began on the SR 16/SR 37/SR 661 interchange project in Granville. This project is designed to reconstruct the bridge carrying SR 37/SR 661 over SR 16 in Granville. This is a phased two year project and delays will be the 'price of progress'.**

**The project will also include turn lane additions along the SR 37/SR 661 entrance and exit ramps. The intersection of SR 661 and River Road/Weaver Drive will be improved to include turn lanes along SR 37/SR 661 and along westbound River Road. The intersection will be signalized.**



**For the first six weeks of the project, motorists can expect minimal traffic impacts with occasional shoulder and lane closures while the**

**contractor works on maintenance of traffic setup and prep work for Phase 1.**

**At this time, Phase 1 of the project is scheduled to begin in June. During Phase 1 of construction, the northbound traffic on SR 37/SR 661 will remain in its current routing; the bridge will be closed to southbound traffic and will be detoured to the adjacent interchange, west of the project, via Weaver Drive to SR16/Columbus Road/Cherry Street to Grandview Road to Silver Street.**

**SR 16EB/WB traffic wishing to travel to the SR 37/661 interchange will exit SR 16 at the adjacent interchange to the west. Motorists can also expect various ramp closures during the 2020 construction season.**

## **SBA Offers Disaster Assistance to Businesses and Residents of Ohio Affected by Severe Storms and Flooding**

**The Licking County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) reports that Ohio businesses and residents affected by the severe storms and flooding on March 20-22, 2020 can apply for low-interest disaster loans.**



*(photo right shows flooding in the area of the South Second Street Bridge in south Newark)*

The loans were made available in response to a letter from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on May 21, requesting a disaster declaration by the SBA. The declaration covers Licking County and the adjacent counties of Coshocton, Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Muskingum and Perry in Ohio.

Survivors should contact SBA Customer Service Representatives at (571) 422-1925, (571) 422-6016 or (404) 909-1535 to schedule a virtual appointment for immediate one-on-one assistance in completing their Electronic Loan Application (ELA). In addition, requests for SBA disaster loan program information may be obtained by emailing FOCE-Help@sba.gov.

These services are only available for the Ohio disaster declaration as a result of the Severe Storms and Flooding on March 20-22, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is July 20, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Feb. 22, 2021.

In accordance with health precautions for the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the SBA will not establish a field presence to assist survivors. However, SBA will continue to provide first class customer service and conduct outreach virtually with webinars, skype calls, phone assistance and step-by-step application assistance.

SBA has opened a Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC) to help survivors apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/> and there are virtual

**customer support representatives available to assist applicants with completing the online application.**

**Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center (VDLOC) Open: Monday – Friday Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed: Saturdays and Sundays FOCE-Help@sba.gov. Phone: 571-422-1925, 571-422-6016 or 404-909-1535. These services are only available for the Ohio disaster declaration as a result of the Severe Storms and Flooding on March 20-22, 2020, and not for COVID-19 related assistance.**

- **Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.**

- **For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.**

- **Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property,” said Kem Fleming, center director of SBA’s Field Operations Center East in Atlanta.**

- **Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a safe room or storm shelter, sump pump, French drain or retaining**

wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

- Interest rates are as low as 3.75 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for nonprofit organizations, and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amount and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing), or by emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Loan applications can also be downloaded at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov). Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is July 20, 2020. The deadline to return economic injury applications is February 22, 2021.

## Update from Licking County Soil & Water Conservation

The Soil & Water is open and here to serve you. The office is open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, excluding federal holidays. We recommend you call



**(740)670-5330 to schedule an appointment.**

**We have taken the opportunity to enhance our website over the last few months. Additional information includes:**

**Needing to buy a rain barrel or geotextile? Visit our new Conservation Supplies online store. Place your order and pick up the products the next day!**

**Need to rent the No-Till drill for planting season? Request a reservation online.**

**Thinking about building a pond or have questions on maintenance? Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) now available on our site.**

**Cover Crop Cost Share available...**

**To promote the use of cover crops, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District is again providing funding for the Cover Crop Cost-Share Program to assist producers in planting cover crops to decrease erosion and improve water quality. July 3, 2020 is the deadline.**

**Last year, in Licking County alone, cover crop cost-share producers planted almost 2,500 acres of cover crops and kept more than 4,600 tons of soil from eroding into our streams, 4,700 pounds of phosphorous on the land and 9,400 pounds of nitrogen out of the waterways.**

## **Landowners Guide to Stream Maintenance...**

**We've been flooded with calls (pun intended) due to heavy rains this spring. In Ohio, the right of maintaining clean and free-flowing waterways belongs to the property owner. Each landowner's situation is different but here are some general guidelines for property owners with stream maintenance questions.**

## **Soil & Water is Hiring!**

**Sadly, Soil & Water will be replacing two staff members who will be moving on to new jobs this summer.**

**The District Technician will coordinate and provide assistance for the agriculture community and rural landowners regarding soil health, conservation practices, and water quality initiatives.**

**The Conservation Educator will promote, schedule and present conservation education programs to diverse audiences including, youth and adults in urban and agricultural settings.**

## **Rural Action Appalachia Ohio Restore Corps – AmeriCorps Opportunity...**

**Licking County Soil & Water Education and Outreach AmeriCorps member will serve as an educator and outreach coordinator in Newark, working with school groups, day camps, and the public to**

**promote healthy watersheds and eco-friendly living. The member will also support citizens in monitoring and improving local water quality. Visit LCSWCD's website for information.**

**Feel free to forward this e-mail in any direction you would like, and let me know the e-mail address of anyone who would like to be included on my Update Newsletter list.**

**\* I would also invite you to check Facebook and visit Licking County Commissioners, Elect Commissioner Tim Bubb and Commissioner Tim Bubb.**

**Hope you enjoy this inspirational photo of the Navy's Blue Angels in a recent fly-by at the Statue of Liberty!**



**I can be e-mailed at [tbubb@lcounty.com](mailto:tbubb@lcounty.com), and my desk phone number at the Commissioner's Office is 740-670-5118.**

**Best Regards! Commissioner Tim Bubb**