



## *Governor's Office of Appalachia Newsletter*

*Spring 2013*

*Issue 2*

### **A Message from Director Wilson**

The Governor's Office of Appalachia has enjoyed a productive winter and we are geared up to keep up the momentum during the coming months. As I continue to travel the region, my focus remains on communicating the needs of the region to leaders in Columbus and connecting our communities to the resources they need to improve the lives of our residents.

In late January, I attended the first Appalachian Delegation meeting. Members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate gathered to discuss issues facing the region and heard from Dan Neff of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Dan provided the group with an update on the ARC and discussed the importance of partnerships and working with the Local Development Districts.



*January's Appalachian Delegation Meeting*

This was a good first meeting and I look forward to our continued work with the Delegation. Among our strongest partnerships is our relationship with the four Local Development Districts, which help my office identify projects that will positively impact our communities.

Recently, I visited two grantees in Marietta that worked with the Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District. I took a tour and met with the staff of the Betsey Mills Club, a nonprofit service organization that provides children's programs, recreational activities and day camps for members of the community and affordable housing for women in transition.



*Top: Director Wilson tours the Betsey Mills Club*

The GOA was happy to provide Betsey Mills with a grant to help install energy efficiency measures to reduce the Club's energy costs.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Physician Assistant program at Marietta College. A grant from the GOA will help the program purchase a family of human patient simulators that will help train local health care providers and students enrolled in the Physician Assistant program.

I look forward to sharing more success stories from our region in the coming months. If you have ideas or suggestions on how our office can serve the people of Ohio's Appalachian region, please let our office know.

You can email me at [Jason.Wilson@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Jason.Wilson@development.ohio.gov). Together we can continue to invigorate the Appalachian region!

Sincerely,



Jason



*Director Wilson with Misty Casto and staff from the Marietta College Physician Assistant Program*

---

## **GOA Partners: Local Development Districts**

### *A Spotlight on Eastgate Regional Council of Governments*



The Eastgate Regional Council of Governments is one of four Local Development Districts in Ohio's Appalachian region. Founded in 1973, it is a partner of the Governor's Office of Appalachia, and works with local communities and nonprofits to improve the lives of residents living in its three-county region. Led by Executive Director John Getchey, Eastgate team focuses on enhancing regional infrastructure, water and air quality and economic development.

Eastgate is composed of members from the cities, villages and townships in Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull counties. The General Policy Board of Eastgate also includes representation from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio EPA and the Western Reserve Transit Authority. Members participate in committees that identify the direction of the Council and help identify priority projects for the region. Committees include the Technical Advisory Committee, Citizens Advisory Board, and Finance Executive Committee.

In 2012, working with the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Eastgate secured funding for the Andover Public Library, Beaver Township, Glenbeigh Health Services, the Mahoning Valley Sanitary District, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 396 and the Western Reserve Port Authority. Each project fulfilled one of the four Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) goals: increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation; strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global

economy; develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive; and build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.



Director Wilson and Kathy Zook speaking with a resident of Beaver Township

Director Wilson visited the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport to tour the facility and learn more about the Western Reserve Port Authority's project to improve the waterlines at the airport. The project will use the State Appalachian Development Grant and matching funds to replace approximately 700 linear feet of waterline with 8-inch ductile iron waterline; replace a 4-inch existing service connection waterline; replace approximately 350 linear feet of Type K copper waterline in or near the terminal; install two additional emergency fire hydrants; and install 8-inch capped service connectors to areas of the airport's East Site Development Project.

The Beaver Township Trustees also met with Director Wilson to announce their South Range Road project. The State Appalachian Development Grant will be used to install 4,400 linear feet of waterline in the township along South Range Road near its intersection with State Route 7 and extending east to Woodworth Road.

The project will serve 20 households and two businesses and will correct water quality problems resulting from surface and underground coal mining operations.



Director Wilson with Beaver Township Trustees

**Counties served:**

Ashtabula, Mahoning and Trumbull

**Local governments or nonprofits with a project that should be considered for funding should contact:**

John R. Getchey, P.E., Executive Director  
[jgetchey@eastgatecog.org](mailto:jgetchey@eastgatecog.org) or 330.779.3800

Kathy Zook, Special Projects Program Manager  
[kzook@eastgatecog.org](mailto:kzook@eastgatecog.org) or 330.779.3800

"It is our goal to build partnerships to address the issues of our region," said Kathy Zook, ARC Program Manager for Eastgate Regional Council of Governments. "We work with our members and local organizations to identify impactful projects and then guide them through the application process."

As the year progresses, Eastgate will focus its efforts on water and sanitary, telecommunication and infrastructure improvements as well as working with the Center for Economic Independence and a local business incubator.

For more information on the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments call (330) 779-3800 or visit [www.eastgatecog.org](http://www.eastgatecog.org)

---

## Governor's Office of Appalachia joins Facebook

Now you can follow Director Wilson and the Governor's Office of Appalachia on Facebook. On the [GOA Facebook](#) page you can learn more about our recent activities and upcoming events. You can also follow Director Wilson as he travels Ohio's 32 Appalachian counties.

We hope you will follow GOA and share the page with your family, friends and colleagues.

---

## Building Bridges to a Career

Director Wilson visited with Dr. Martin Abraham at Youngstown University to learn more about the Mahoning Valley Bridge Building Competition. Started in 2008, Mahoning and Trumbull County Engineers, Youngstown State University, ms consultants, inc., and GPD Group sponsor the event that provides students practical experience in the field of civil engineering.

This year there were 31 teams from 16 area high schools participating in the competition that designed and constructed balsa wood bridges. The bridges are then tested to determine their load capacity.

The winners in the most efficient bridge category were Lowellville High School, Team B (first place); Niles-McKinley High School, Team A (second place). Western Reserve, Team B won the Wade Harvey Design Award, which is presented to the team that not only had a high efficiency ratio but also scored high in the aesthetics of the structure and complexity of design. The aesthetics award was presented to the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center, Team A; and the teamwork award went to the Trumbull County Career and Technical Center, Team A. Mineral Ridge, Team A was presented the most improved high school award.



---

## Broadband Initiative Continues to Grow

In January, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, Connect Ohio, Connect Appalachia Broadband Initiative (CABI) Task Force members and Chesapeake Energy announced the creation of the CABI Fund.

The fund, administered through the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio and established through an initial investment by Chesapeake Energy, provides individuals, corporations and foundations a convenient platform to participate in expanding broadband connectivity in Appalachian Ohio. The key financial vessel will provide a computer and technology training,

working toward providing low-cost Internet service to all Appalachian Ohio households in need.

In efforts to highlight the relevance of broadband and increase digital literacy, Connect Ohio has partnered with Goodwill Industries of Greater Cleveland and East Central Ohio and the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD), to expand its Every Citizen Online free basic computer training. The program is now available in Carroll, Clermont, Coshocton, Lawrence and Meigs counties.

The CABI Task Force is administered by Connect Ohio and made up of public, private and nonprofit leaders. Broadband access, adoption and use has a significant social impact on public safety, community enrichment, healthcare, family empowerment, economic development, education and workforce development. Connect Ohio's research reveals only 53 percent of Appalachian Ohio residents have broadband service in the home, significantly less than the state average of 71 percent.

Other key findings include:

- 531,000 adults in rural Appalachia do not have home broadband.
  - 1 in 3 Appalachian Ohio children do not have broadband service at home.
  - Appalachian Ohio residents are nearly twice as dependent on dial-up Internet or accessing the Internet from places other than home compared to the rest of the state.
- 

## Items of Note

### **2013 Lead-based Paint Hazard Reduction Training**

The Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD), sponsored by the Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Development, will conduct the 2013 lead-based paint hazard reduction training. The training meets Environmental Protection Agency requirements mandating EPA-certified Remodeling, Renovation and Painting for contractors that work on pre-1978 housing in Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) eligible communities. More information on dates and training locations throughout the region is available online at [http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs\\_traintech.htm](http://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_traintech.htm) (left-hand navigation bar) or by calling COAD at (740) 594-8499 ext. 204.

---

## Projects receiving State Appalachian Development Program Grants:

**CASTLO Community Improvement Corporation** (Mahoning County) received \$100,000 to repair and replace 6,000 linear feet of track and Rail Bridge to include track refurbishing, new track construction and 200 linear feet of new rail siding in the CASTLO industrial park. The project serves the industrial park and two businesses, which will retain seven and create 30 jobs.

**City of Canfield** (Mahoning County) received \$150,000 to replace approximately 300 linear feet of failed section of 24-inch ductile iron pipe located along State Route 11. The waterline improvements will provide 126 businesses, 3,400 residential properties, five schools, nine local government offices and the county fairgrounds with a reliable water source.

**City of New Philadelphia** (Tuscarawas County) received \$100,000 to improve the storm sewer capacity at the city's most heavily traveled five-way intersection. Currently the intersection floods more than five times a year. These improvements will address the flooding issue and allow for economic development in the area.

**City of Wellston** (Jackson County) received \$250,000 to complete Phase II of improvements to the North Water Treatment Plant, which will provide capacity for future economic growth.

**City of Zanesville** (Muskingum County) received \$100,000 to rehabilitate the Y-Bridge Lift Station, providing new electrical pumps and appurtenances which will increase capacity and meet the needs of the city and portions of the county.

**COMPASS Community Health** received \$60,800 to renovate and expand its Health Care Center, which delivers primary healthcare to the citizens of Scioto and Adams counties. The project includes renovation of the Health Care Center's entrance, expansion of the waiting room and construction of a new testing laboratory and lavatory.

**Jefferson County** received \$200,000 to complete Drive B in the Jefferson County Industrial Park, allowing for the development of 27 acres. The project includes 2,200 linear feet of road paving and the installation of 1,500 linear feet of storm sewer, 1,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer line and 1,015 linear feet of waterline.

**Marietta College** (Washington County) received \$110,000 to purchase a family of human patient simulators and to establish a training program located at Marietta Memorial Hospital (MMH) for the College's Physician Assistant program, employees of MMH, pre-service health care students, first responders and other health care professionals. More than 600 students, clinicians and medical professionals will receive hands-on, interactive training.

**Muskingum County** received \$100,000 to install a new sanitary sewer lift station that will increase the sewer capacity and provide service for a 52-acre site in southwest Muskingum County.

**Stuart's Opera House, Inc.** (Athens County) received \$20,000 to update the historic theater with energy efficient windows and doors which will decrease heating and cooling costs.

**The Ohio State University** (Franklin County) received \$15,000 to study the educational, economic, environmental and social factors affecting a student's decision to seek post-secondary education. The project will result in recommendations for addressing the barriers and challenges Appalachian students face.

**Village of Malvern** (Carroll County) received \$10,500 to clean and make improvements to Well 5 that supports 1,200 households and 135 businesses. This project will improve the quality of water from the well.

**Village of Racine** (Meigs County) received \$18,100 to install 420 linear feet of 8-inch waterline with two connectors and a fire hydrant. The waterline improvements will provide service to a new commercial development area and move the commercial district out of the flood plain.

**Village of Zoar** (Tuscarawas County) received \$43,500 to improve sidewalks on Main Street. Along with funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, this project will provide a safe and aesthetic walkway for visitors of the historic downtown.

**Woodland Centers Accessibility** (Gallia, Jackson and Meigs Counties) received \$52,100 to install handicap doors to the Gallia Clinic and upgrade technology to provide telemedicine capabilities in sister clinics.

---

## Events in the Appalachian Region\*

### **Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

*Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Executive Board Meeting*

Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.

Belmont County – Undo's Restaurant

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471 ext. 206.

### **Wednesday, August 21, 2013**

*Ohio Mid-Eastern Governments Association (OMEGA) Executive Board Meeting and Summer Mixer*

Meeting begins at 12:00 p.m.

Location to be determined

For more information on the meeting and to RSVP, contact Cindi Kerschbaumer at (740) 439-4471 ext. 206.

*If you have an event for the calendar listing please contact Ele Garcia in the Office of Community Development at [Ele.Garcia@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Ele.Garcia@development.ohio.gov)*

*\*To attend a meeting listed, please contact the sponsoring organization. Meeting dates and times may be subject to change.*

**Ohio**

John R. Kasich  
Governor

Development  
Services Agency

David Goodman  
Director

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.

The State of Ohio is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider of ADA Services.