

AN UPDATE ON WARREN COUNTY

FROM OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUMMER 2023



THE STATE OF THE COUNTY IS STRONG!

2023 ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY PRESENTED BY THE APC

The Area Progress Council of Warren County hosted the Commissioners once again to give the annual State of the County Address. With an emphasis on growth and how Warren County's long-standing conservative fiscal policies set it apart from the rest, the Commissioners were eager to share an update on some of the major investments being made throughout the county.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Public-private partnership: \$5M county investment unlocked \$100M investment from altafiber to bring broadband services to approximately 53,000 addresses.
- Proactive approach to cybersecurity: protecting all county assets while ensuring that there is a roadmap to best prepare and budget for cyber risk mitigation.
- Shaping the county's footprint: being good stewards of all county facilities by determining how to best utilize and upgrade buildings to accommodate capacity challenges in the short and long term.
- Addressing workforce barriers: finding creative and collaborative solutions to better attract, retain, and develop a talented workforce.



HIGH-SPEED FIBER ACCESS TO 100% OF THE COUNTY

THE COMMISSIONERS PARTNER WITH ALTA FIBER FOR A \$100 MILLION BROADBAND PROJECT



In March, the Commissioners officially partnered with altafiber to build out a robust broadband network, covering 100% of the county at an affordable cost. Through an investment just under \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds, the Commissioners unlocked a \$100 million project to bring high-speed broadband fiber throughout all of Warren County. The project begins this year, with priority given to the most underserved areas of the county, and is planned to be fully built out over the next three years, bringing fiber-based internet access to approximately 53,000 addresses. Following the pandemic, it became apparent how necessary reliable access to internet service was to every home and business. This significant investment will further close the digital divide, facilitating online learning for students, supporting the flexibility of remote work for employees, and will be a key driver of economic development opportunities throughout the county.



Economic Development Director, Matt Schnipke, joined Ted Heckman from altafiber to share about this public-private partnership at the Ohio Telecom Association Conference.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK EVENT

TAKING A LOOK AT WHAT IS ON THE HORIZON FOR OHIO AND WARREN COUNTY!

A great turnout for the Warren County Chamber Alliance Strategic Outlook in April! Just under 400 leaders throughout the county and the region attended to hear about what is on Ohio's horizon and how Warren County is well-positioned to further some of these exciting developments. Commissioner Shannon Jones emceed the program, welcoming Lt. Governor Jon Husted as the keynote speaker and moderated a thoughtful panel discussion with Director Lydia Mihalik from Ohio Department of Development, J.P. Nauseef from JobsOhio, and Rick Carfagna with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. To close the program, Commissioner Jones invited Maggie Frye from Core Consulting to present a snapshot of the county-wide workforce initiative in which numerous community leaders have been involved. A key takeaway from the morning came from Lt. Governor Husted, stating, **"those who collaborate best, win."** This event was a clear picture of how Warren County works together, looking to partners at all levels to make Ohio the best place to call home for residents and businesses.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Make Ohio the go-to state in the Midwest to do business
- The great value in education offered by career centers
- Employers can use TechCred to upskill their workforce
- Need for investments in child care to support workforce

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DISTRICT AT DEERFIELD GROUNDBREAKING

In March, Commissioner Young joined Deerfield Township and the entire District at Deerfield development team to break ground on the final phase of this \$150 million project! This 28-acre mixed-use development will welcome PINS Mechanical, 50West Brewing, Bakersfield, and The Eagle. Looking forward to seeing this project come to fruition on the county's largest economic corridor!



INTERVENING EARLY

HOW WARREN COUNTY IS INVESTING IN FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

In just the first 5 years of life, 90% of a child's brain is developed. If a child experiences trauma during those crucial brain-building years, this development stops, making them less likely to enter school ready to learn, and often rarely able to catch up to their peers. Prioritizing these early years is an essential part to ensuring that a child has the best chance for life-long success. Here are a few ways Warren County is supporting families and advocating for children.

1 FEATURED ON FEELIN' GOOD

Commissioner Shannon Jones appeared on Warren County Community Service's (WCCS) *Feelin' Good*, hosted by Shelly Abrams. Taking a close look at the ways in which child care availability and affordability directly impact the workforce of now and tomorrow, Commissioner Jones unpacked why the need to address these challenges sooner rather than later is imperative. A number of the preexisting capacity and financial challenges in the child care industry were only further exacerbated in the wake of the global pandemic. Without access to affordable, quality childcare, parents are faced with either exiting the workforce or attempting to find alternative care for their child. With less spaces, tuition rates rising, and staff burnout, "the workforce behind the workforce is really starting to collapse," as stated by Commissioner Jones. The need to support quality child care is essential to ensure that our youngest learners start out with a strong foundation for long-term success and allows families to remain engaged in the workforce.



The full interview is now available!

www.wccsi.org/sitepages/NEWS_FeelinGood.html

2 VISITING WARREN COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICE'S EARLY LEARNING CENTER



Lisa Cayard from WCCS invited Representative Adam Mathews, Commissioner Jones and other state partners to visit one of their early learning centers. Housed in the center is the Therapeutic Interagency Preschool (TIP), a collaboratively funded program between WCCS, Warren County Children Services and the Warren County Educational Service Center. TIP is a research-based model that offers mental health and trauma-informed education for children in need of specialized services. The mission of the TIP program is to increase child resiliency and promote healthy social interactions, which are central to facilitating school readiness for preschoolers effected by trauma. The group also heard first-hand from a TIP parent about the impact the program has had on her child.

3 CREATIVE SOLUTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the Commissioners partnered with 4C for Children to help increase child care options for families throughout the county. 4C is an organization that specializes in early education and care, and through this partnership, 4C will help potential in-home child care providers receive training, coaching, technology, early learning materials and equipment. Providers can also receive business training to support financial success.

To learn more about this opportunity, scan the QR code to find out what resources are available!



COMMISSION LEADERSHIP IN 2023

This year Commissioner Shannon Jones was appointed as President of the Board, and Commissioner Dave Young was appointed to serve as Vice President.

Commissioner Shannon Jones serves on the CCAO Board of Directors and was appointed as Chair of the NACo Human Services & Education Committee.



The Warren County Board of Commissioners meets on most Tuesdays at 9:00 AM and on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, as needed.

Meetings are held in the county administration building and live streamed to www.youtube.com/channel/UC1ELh0jGpXd4VV2DTgsuqPA

Stay connected with us. We value our relationships with our residents, businesses, community organizations and our elected officials. Contact us with your input, questions or concerns.

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