



Delaware County Commissioners

Jeff Benton
Barb Lewis
Gary Merrell

Acting County Administrators
Dawn Huston and Seiji Kille

Clerk to the Commissioners
Jennifer Walraven

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Contact: Jane Hawes, Communications Manager
740/833-2109 (office) • 740/815-3390 (cell)

Delaware County Commissioners Deliver State of the County Address

DELAWARE, Ohio — Delaware County's Board of Commissioners today delivered their 2016 State of the County address at the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce's monthly Third Thursday event. During the luncheon meeting, Commissioners Barb Lewis, Gary Merrell and Jeff Benton presented updates on a wide range of projects that are impacting the county this year.

Lewis, who is serving as the Board's president in 2016, spoke about strategic new hires including Director of Sanitary Engineering and Development Michael Frommer and Economic Development Director Bob Lamb. She also updated the audience of nearly 100 attendees about the Tanger Outlet Mall (on target for a June 2016 opening), IKEA (slated to break ground this spring and open in summer 2017) and related roadwork projects; about a "Lean Six Sigma" efficiency program for which the county has received a state funding grant; and about the Board's goals to improve its communications and explore options for shared services with other local government entities.

Merrell, who served as Board president in 2014 and 2015, provided updates on the Delaware County Judicial Building project now underway and due to be completed in 2017; the Sawmill Parkway Extension phase running from Hyatts Road to Route 42 (to be completed by October 2016); improvements to the county's 9-1-1 Center and an expiring levy that funds 9-1-1 operations that will need to be renewed; and the Sanitary Sewer Master Plan, which the county should complete by December and use to guide future development.

Benton, currently serving as Board vice president, spoke about the Delaware County Fairgrounds and how the hotel-bed excise tax approved by voters Tuesday will fund infrastructure improvements there; significant new business development in the county, including the MC Fitness & Health facility on Rt. 23, the joint OhioHealth and Nationwide Children's Hospital venture also on Rt. 23, the Evans Farm Town Center development now being planned in Orange and Berlin townships, and the prospect of a new Big Walnut interchange on I-71. He also updated the audience on internal studies and initiatives being undertaken by the Board to improve the county government's operations and lower costs. In closing, he emphasized the desire of the current Board to build upon its working relationships with other government entities and groups in the county.

A copy of the Commissioners' PowerPoint presentation is available online at <http://co.delaware.oh.us/index.php/events>. For more information about Delaware County, please visit our website at www.co.delaware.oh.us.

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