

MADISON COUNTY

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The Official Newsletter

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New transportation options in Madison County

Madison County has updated its transportation offerings, starting with a new option for the general public.

Individuals in Madison County can now call Fayette-Madison Transit at **740-335-9628** to arrange transportation anywhere in the county for \$1.50 a person, one way. If people are traveling just within London, the cost is only \$1 a person, one way.

For senior citizens (60+) or those that have a documented disability, their fare is half price. When a resident calls, they have to provide all identifying information the dispatcher requests. This reduced cost transportation is possible thanks to a grant with the Ohio Department of Transportation, so there is identifying information that will need to be collected.

Riders also need to have exact change as the drivers will not have access to cash.

The current hours for transportation are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The dispatcher is available M-F 8-4.

Riders can leave a cancellation call on the voicemail, however they cannot schedule via voicemail and will need to call the following day. Those hours may increase as Fayette-Madison Transit monitors the use of this great opportunity.

It is best if riders call at least one day ahead of time, but some same-day transportation can be arranged if drivers are available.

This does not replace Madison County Ride, which historically transports clients to their Medicaid billable appointments. The goal is to help Madison County residents to get to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy, the laundromat and more. It operates similarly to a bus/Uber service. Individuals without Medicaid can use it to get to their doctor appointments as long as they are in Madison or Fayette counties.

Flyers and more information will be coming, so keep an eye out for that.

The other exciting news is that starting Monday July 1, Madison County Ride stopped providing the Medicaid billable transportation and the Work Activity transportation. MCRide has been the provider for more than 25 years and has done an amazing job of transporting individuals to their Medicaid billable appointments, however they are ready to retire their keys and pass the baton to a new company. Starting Monday July 1, Valley Transport took over for all Medicaid billable appointments and Work Activity appointments. Valley Transport has years of experience providing public transportation in Hamilton, Warren, Franklin and Montgomery counties. They have 200 vehicles and over 200 drivers.

When a client has Medicaid or they are working with the Work Activity program, the county is responsible for ensuring they have transportation to their Medicaid and Work Activity appointments.

THIS MONTH

- Transportation change
- Meet Medo
- Veterans awareness
- New planning and zoning admin

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They have to start with an eligibility determination completed by Madison County Department of Job and Family Services. The transportation phone line is **740-852-6033**. If approved, they will receive an approval letter and be placed on the eligibility list. Once on the list, they will contact Valley Transit to schedule their transportation. This eligibility is reviewed once a year to ensure the client is still receiving Medicaid.

Clients call **1-800-541-6555** to schedule their ride. Valley requests 24 hours' notice. The following information will be needed to schedule the ride: name, telephone number, date of appointment, pick-up address, drop-off location, appointment time, return time or if it is a will call (member will call when ready and we send a driver within 30-45 minutes) and level of service: ambulatory (regular vehicle) or a wheelchair van.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE WELCOMES MEDO

A new deputy is on patrol at the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Dep. Medo, a 2 1/2 year-old male Malinois, joined Dep. Mike Stone as part of the MCSO's K-9 Unit in April.

Sheriff John Swaney said filling the vacant K-9 position, which has been empty for several years, not only fills a void for the law enforcement part of the job but is good for the community.

"It's a great public relations tool. Everyone loves animals and having a K-9 is a great resource for the community," he said. "It's a great way for us to connect with and communicate with the public."

The void being filled is that of apprehensions, Swaney said.

"When it came to certain active scenes, that's something we were missing," he said. "We had to rely on other agencies for that response. Now we don't."



Dep. Stone and Medo.

MCSO uses Storm Dog Tactical, a company located in Franklin County for the K-9 training. Stone and Medo have completed more than 200 hours of training in areas of Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Article Search, Suspect Apprehension and Handler Protection. Medo earned his patrol certification from the Ohio Peace Office Training Academy.

Stone joined the MCSO in 2006 and holds a certification in K-9 training from Storm Dog Tactical. The duo began their first active duty shift together on May 4 and will continue training to earn additional certifications.

"There was a pause in having a K-9 for a while as the laws changed around drug-related issues," Swaney said. "But now that we have a better idea of those requirements are, we're happy to the K-9 back part of the sheriff's office."

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Recorder cautions veterans to be aware of exploitative practices



Madison County Recorder, Rachel Fisher, and the Ohio Recorders' Association (ORA) is urging Veterans to be aware of exploitative practices targeting military veterans who are being charged for services that are available for free.

DD214 Direct, a company based in Arizona, is currently soliciting veterans in Ohio to purchase a copy of their DD214 form for a fee ranging from \$79 to \$99. While this practice may be legal, Rachel Fisher and other County Recorders across Ohio want to ensure that veterans are informed about the free services they are entitled to.

Veterans can obtain a free copy of their military records through their local Veteran's Service Commission as well as record their DD214 at their local county recorder's office at no charge. The DD214 form is essential for veterans to access benefits like VA loans, disability compensation, and reduced medical costs. In recent months, recorders offices across Ohio

have received DD214 forms (paid for by veterans) from DD214 Direct through the mail, along with a limited power of attorney granting the recorder the authority to file both documents on behalf of the veteran.

To safeguard veterans from exploitative, unnecessary fees and inform the public, the ORA is working to raise awareness among Veterans about these practices. Furthermore, the ORA is currently looking into potential legislation aimed at regulating companies like DD214 Direct and mandating the disclosure of the availability of these services at no charge.

County hires new Planning and Zoning Administrator

As officials work to handle the needs of growth and development, the county has a new person to help sort through those demands.

Dennis Payne has been hired as the new Planning and Zoning Administrator for the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

"Dennis brings with him an impressive background in planning and zoning, having garnered extensive experience in both Georgia and Ohio," county officials said in a social media post. "His wealth of knowledge and hands-on expertise in the field make him an invaluable addition to our team."

Payne brings with him a comprehensive understanding of zoning regulations, combined with a proven track record in managing and implementing zoning policies that will significantly benefit Madison County.

Officials said they are confident that his leadership will help them navigate the complexities of zoning issues and contribute to the "sustainable development of our community."

