

FROM YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

A Good Year for Funding Local History Projects from the Statehouse

By: State Representative, STEVE HAMBLEY

In March, the Ohio House and Ohio Senate passed by overwhelming margins the state capital budget, which invests \$2.62 billion statewide, including \$3.5 million in funding for projects that directly benefit Medina County communities and residents. The capital budget contains funding for needed improvements to public services and facilities across the state, including schools, roads and bridges, waterways and parks. The bill also increases investments in mental health and addiction services facilities. Through hard work and advocacy of State Representative Darrell Kick (70th District) and Senate President Larry Obhof, as well as my office, Medina County was able to do quite well in funding for a great number of projects important to our residents and communities. Among them were also projects of our local historical societies and museums.

The Ohio History Connection, formerly the Ohio Historical Society, received the largest capital budget allocation in its 133-year history with \$23.7 million for the expansion of their collection storage facilities and for historic sites throughout the state. Medina County, in its bicentennial year, will also be receiving a record amount of \$265,000 that will be distributed among eight local historical societies from the state capital budget. With the support of Representative Kick, President Obhof and myself, the Medina County Historical Society reached out to all of the

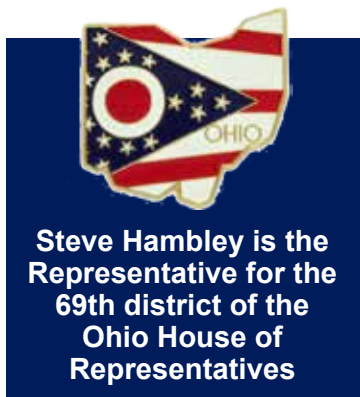
local historical societies and museums in the county last year to produce the following list of projects to submit for grant funding from the state of Ohio. *(See List to the Right)*

This is the first time in county history that local historical societies have worked together in order to seek grant funding for their permanent improvement projects. County historical societies, such as ours in Medina County, can aid and assist the other local societies and museums. In the last capital budget in 2016, President Obhof and I were able to get a \$100,000 appropriation for the Medina County Historical Society. Based upon that success, they were willing to facilitate a joint request for capital projects for historical societies countywide in 2018. While the \$265,000 did not meet the total \$370,000 requested, the local historical societies and museums are now in much better positions to complete these needed projects that will preserve and promote our local history.

\$3.5 million in funding will be allocated for projects that directly benefit Medina County communities and residents.



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In reviewing all of the capital budget community projects that are being funded statewide this year, I observed no other joint projects involving historical societies like Medina County. I have often heard that in Medina County we tend to find ways to collaborate and use that combined energy to maximize our chances of success. That certainly held true this year for our historical societies. What a great tribute to our predecessors that produced a prosperous and bountiful county in the year of the bicentennial celebration of our county's formal organization.

The following is a list of projects to submit for grant funding from the state of Ohio.

Brunswick Area Historical Society: Purchase and preserve an 1856 log cabin at the Heritage Farm complex

Chatham Historical Society: Relocate and preserve the historic gas station at State Route 83 and State Route 162

Granger Historical Society: Construct forty feet of new book cabinets and shelving with protective glass in order to preserve archives and improve display space

Hinckley History Museum: Replace aging incline for ADA access with a paved incline, add a new gabled dormer for the 1846 house, and purchase additional display mannequins

Liverpool Township Historical Society: Structurally stabilize and renovate inside and outside of 1800s one-room school house

Medina County Historical Society: Construct John Smart Museum ADA access ramp/lift and pave driveway

Seville Historical Society: Restore the Captain Martin Van Buren Bates Barn, a 100' x 30' historic barn built in 1883 by the famous "Giant" and resident of Seville

Wadsworth Area Historical Society: Replace old windows, paint exterior sides and trim, and replace old sidewalks in the 1852 house/museum



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