

**IN THE MORROW COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

IN RE: COURT CLOSURE APRIL 8, 2024 FOR SOLAR ECLIPSE

JOURNAL ENTRY

The Court makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. On this date, people within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse.

See <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>.

2. A total solar eclipse is a rare and spectacular event. On average, one happens somewhere on the Earth only once every 1.5 years. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states in the entire existence of the United States. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2099.

See <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>.

3. While the 2024 total solar eclipse in Ohio will last no more than five minutes, a partial solar eclipse will be visible before and after the total eclipse. Times of totality will vary throughout the viewing areas. Morrow County and its adjacent counties have been designated as full totality areas.

<https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>

4. Local area attractions such as Cardinal Center Campground, Morrow County Fairgrounds, Mount Gilead State Park, and Mount Gilead KOA are holding events that will draw out of town visitors into the eclipse viewing area.
5. Morrow County Emergency Management Agency Director John Harsch has provided information to elected officials regarding the anticipated issues that may arise locally due to the total solar eclipse. Such issues include: increased traffic; population surge; communication disruption arising from high volume cellular service; infrastructure stress; and increased need for emergency services.
6. The Cardington-Lincoln, Highland Local, Mount Gilead Exempted Village and Northmor Local School Districts have announced closures on April 8, 2024. Many other school districts throughout the state have done the same. Said closures create potential childcare issues for staff, litigants, and witnesses who may have business before the Court.

7. April 8, 2024, like many federal holidays, falls on a Monday. The Morrow County Municipal Court has policies and procedures in place to address emergency matters that could arise during the course of a three-day weekend.
8. A modification of the Morrow County Municipal Court's schedule and daily operations is needed to address the anticipated population surge that will be take place on April 8, 2024.

Therefore, it is hereby ORDERED that the Morrow County Municipal Court will be closed Monday, April 8, 2024.

SO ORDERED.



Judge Jenifer Murphy Burnaugh

DATE: February 26, 2024

FILED

FEB 26 2024

**MORROW COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT
MT. GILEAD, OH 43338**