

ISSUE 33 — WINTER

SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles



Shelby County is celebrating its Bicentennial in 2019 followed by the City of Sidney's Bicentennial in 2020. All festivities will celebrate the rich history of Sidney and Shelby County.

Bicentennial Ball

February 22, 2020
8:00 p.m.—Midnight
Shelby County Courthouse
100 East Court Street

U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors Band

April 3, 2020
Historic Sidney Theatre
120 West Poplar Street

Tree City Celebration

April 17, 2020

Vietnam Traveling Wall Exhibit

May 13—17, 2020

Unveiling of Restored Sgt. Baker

May 25, 2020
Monumental Building
110 West Court Street

Details can be found on the Visitor's Bureau web site, VisitSidneyShelby.com, and on Facebook at Shelby County Ohio. Bicentennial Celebration, or <https://www.facebook.com/ShelbyCountyBicentennial2019/>

Cargill to Invest \$225 Million

Cargill's recent announcement to expand its integrated soybean crush and refined oils facility in Sidney, Ohio, marks the largest Shelby County industrial expansion project for 2019. The company will invest approximately \$225 million at the Sidney site, increasing crush capacity and modernizing operations. The investment creates greater market access for farmers' crops in the area and allows those farmers to deliver their soybeans more efficiently, as the upgraded plant will unload trucks at a much faster rate.



"Farmers are at the core of our business. This investment will help us provide them a better experience when they choose to sell their crops to us," said Don Camden, commercial leader for the eastern region of Cargill's agricultural supply chain business in North America. "This also demonstrates our commitment to invest in and grow with the Sidney community."

When the expansion is complete in 2022, Cargill expects to add approximately 12 full-time jobs to the team of 325 currently employed at Sidney. In addition to these new jobs and the benefits to farmers, the expansion will boost the local economy during construction.

Ohio | TechCred

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. Employers who submit successful applications will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per credential when current or prospective employees complete eligible technology-focused credentials.

The current open application period runs January 2, 2020 – Jan 31, 2020. For more information visit,

<https://techcred.ohio.gov>

For information on TechCred training at Edison Community College, visit here <https://www.edisonohio.edu/techcred/>



Students Gain Real-Life Skills with Ninja Challenge



The touring Ninja Challenge sponsored by the Workforce Partnership and partners Slagle Mechanical, Area Energy & Electric, and Ferguson Construction provides students with the opportunity to get a drill in their hand and hard hat on their head. While combining safety with skill, the Ninja Challenge provides students the ability to test their trade skills and compete against other students.



In the last two months the Ninja Challenge course visited Anna, Russia and Ft. Loramie local schools, where more than 250 students participated in the friendly competition. The record setting time to complete the course was a whopping 46 seconds at Ft. Loramie! The students enjoy the event and learning how to use power tools and safety equipment.



Activities are planned in the upcoming 2020 year with the Ninja Challenge at Botkins, Fairlawn, Houston, Jackson Center, and Sidney schools. Enjoy a few fun photos from the Ninja Challenge.



Skills Scholarship Program Launched

The Community Foundation of Shelby County is offering ten scholarships of up to \$2,000 each for students and adults pursuing training at a trade or technical school or community college that leads to a certificate or Associate's degree. The 2020 Skills Scholarship application is open until March 12th to residents of Shelby County or the school districts of the county.

"The length of training is often short, but those wanting a career in a skilled or technical field often face education costs that are out of reach," said Marian Spicer, executive director. "Thanks to many individuals and companies, the Shelby County United Way and several Community Foundation charitable funds, there will be ten awards this spring and we hope to provide the same number in 2021."

After that, Spicer hopes that skills scholarship funds are established to generate annual awards, similar to the skills scholarship created by retired tool and die shop owner Bob Sargeant.

The Shelby County Skills Scholarship online application is found at the Community Foundation's website at www.commfoun.com. From the Grants & Scholarship menu, select Apply for a Scholarship and then choose the 2020 Skills Scholarship Application.

Contact Juli Smith at the Community Foundation at jsmith@commfoun.com for additional information.

Jackie Doseck Joins Workforce Partnership



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Jackie is the new Administrative Staff at Workforce Partnership of Shelby County. Jackie hails from Jackson Center, where she lives with her husband,

She has an extensive background in project planning and digital marketing, and she brings a strong passion to help students find where their passion lies.

Jackie is extremely excited to join the Workforce Partnership team and looks forward to meeting everyone! Please welcome Jackie!

Community Branding Initiative

Improving the overall image and brand of Sidney (and Shelby County) was identified as a priority in the Community Visioning Sessions in 2019. The Sidney Visitors Bureau was identified as the organization to lead the effort. A team of 11 community leaders and marketing professionals met frequently to establish a strategy. The team drafted an RFP, reviewed the responses, and recently engaged a marketing agency.

After much thought, research, and deliberation the team selected the Columbus, Ohio based agency Fahlgren Mortine as our community branding agency partner. Fahlgren is a mid-sized agency with a proven track record in destination marketing and place

branding. We anxiously look forward to working with them in the development of a new brand for Sidney. You can learn more about Fahlgren at <https://fahlgrenmortine.com/>.

More good news... we were notified in December by the Community Foundation of Shelby County that our grant application to the Monarch Machine Tool Company Legacy Fund was approved for the requested amount of \$7,500. This money will supplement the funds already pledged by the City of Sidney, Sidney Visitors Bureau, and Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. We remain hopeful that others will join in this effort to move our community forward.

What is the CRA Tax Incentive?

CRA stands for Community Reinvestment Area and it was created under Ohio Law to encourage investment and improvements in real property within a designated area. CRA districts can promote both business and commercial development by reducing or eliminating the real estate taxes on improvements up to 15 years.

Here are some examples:

- Recently, Botkins and Jackson Center have used CRA to incentivize new housing development in their communities.

- The City of Sidney approved a 15 year CRA abatement to facilitate the expansion of Tavalos Restaurant in downtown Sidney.
- The Greater Downtown CRA in Sidney also offers 100% - 10 year abatement to homeowners that invest as little as \$5,000 to improve a historic home within the downtown district.

For more information on the Sidney CRA, visit <https://www.sidneyoh.com/176/Community-Reinvestment-Area-Policy>

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Thank you to our contributors:

*Kari Egbert, City of Sidney; Julie Ehemann, Shelby County; Jeff Raible, Sidney-Shelby County Chamber; and Marian Spicer, Community Foundation. The publishers invite your comments, suggestions, story ideas, and sponsorship of future issues. If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Jim Hill** at jhill@choosesidneyshelby.com*

Cakes and Cookies and Brownies, Oh My!

Every day, magic happens at 313 West Main Street in Anna. Home to [Rachel's Cakes](#), it's at this address where masterpieces of the cake, cupcake, and cookie variety are fresh baked, attractively displayed, and sold to lovers of baked goods throughout the area.

This homemade success story begins with Rachel New and her desire in 2009 to have both a career and time for her newborn son, Locklan. Rachel always loved to bake and acquired some basic baking skills while in college, so she started decorating cakes for family and friends. They loved them!

In 2016 Bed Bath & Beyond reached out to Rachel with an invitation to decorate cupcakes for a national advertisement. It was after that she knew the time was now to open a storefront location for her business.

The doors to her charming shop opened in 2017. Fast forward nearly three years, Rachel says that she and her husband Rodney work full time at Rachel's Cakes making theirs a true "mom and pop" shop.

Rachel's Cakes is a self-described small-town bake shop specializing in gourmet desserts. They offer fresh baked

and delicious brownies, cookies, cheesecake bites, cupcakes and muffins. For those celebrating special occasions, they offer artistic and customizable cakes to make that beautiful day a tasty one too.

According to Rachel, "From the beginning of my cake career I was determined to give back." Both she and Rodney have a strong desire to give back to the Shelby County community for its here and the surrounding area that has supported them so tremendously.

The Rachel's Cakes Facebook page describes their mission this way: to provide a unique approach to decorating -- to make a cake that's both visually stunning and mouth-wateringly delicious! As a three-time Readers Choice Award Recipient for Best Bake Shop, it seems they have succeeded.

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/the.rachels.cakes/>

