

# shelby County SIZZLES

— A Publication of the Sidney–Shelby Economic Partnership —

## New Meat Processing Facility in Jackson Center



Got Meat, LLC, dba Curly's Custom Meats, has broken ground on a new, state of the art, meat processing facility in Jackson Center. The facility will harvest and process custom and retail beef, pork, lamb, and goat meat. The new facility will include a retail area open to the public for the sale of a large variety of meat, fresh produce, some food items, as well as some non-food items. The project will be adding up to 10 new full-time employees and two part-time employees. The total project investment of building and equipment is estimated to be \$1.4 million. The Village was able to assist the project in facilitating a prime location and assisting with a 15 year, CRA agreement for 100% of the improvements.

## Thermoseal Expansion



Klinger Thermoseal is currently undergoing an expansion at its Sidney facility, and they're doing it with the help of the trusted team at Ferguson Construction. Ferguson built the original building back in the 1970s and subsequent additions in the 80s, 90s, and 2000. With 25,000 square feet of new space slated to be completed this summer, Klinger will soon be able to add rubber-coated metal production to their diverse portfolio. By the end of 2023, Klinger Thermoseal's new equipment and machinery will be up and running, ready to meet the demands of a growing industry. It's inspiring to see companies invest in growth and innovation, and we can't wait to see what's in store for Klinger Thermoseal.

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## Sidney—#3 U. S. Micropolitan



In *Site Selection* Magazine's ranking of Top Micropolitans — cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover

at least one county — Sidney, Ohio, tied for the #3 U.S. rank among the nation's 543 micropolitan areas. Ohio once again led as the state with most Top 100 Micropolitans, with 22 tallying enough projects (115) to account for 24% of the state's total.

It is the 12th consecutive year that the Sidney area has made the Top 100 Micropolitan ranking list and this year marks its highest ranking to date. In addition, the Sidney area also made the POLICOM Economic Strength Rating Top 100 list for the 10th consecutive year and achieved its highest rating in 2022.

"It is great to see our community ranked as the #3 U.S. Micropolitan in 2022," said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. "The Site Selection and POLICOM rankings validate that Sidney and Shelby County are great places for corporate investment. We are also the #1 Ohio county for manufacturing employment. Manufacturing output now totals \$9.1 billion in annual shipments. These are exciting milestones to achieve as SSEP celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year!" concluded Hill.

*Cont. on pg. 2*

## Shelby County Childcare

The issue of Childcare remains a top priority of Shelby County as we move into 2023. There are several objectives in mind including increasing Shelby County's employed workforce, increasing current kindergarten readiness scores, and providing a safe nurturing environment for all children. The Shelby County Commissioners contracted with 4C for Children in 2021 utilizing federal grant (ARPA) dollars to stabilize current childcare programs on the heels of COVID. In addition, 4C was retained to recruit and train new providers and help with expansions of at-home providers and child-care centers.

In 2022, Shelby County was fortunate to retain all current licensed providers. In addition, one home center expanded by adding space for six additional children. Two other entities received licenses with St. Philomena Preschool in McCartyville expanding in August, and the YMCA recently opening a satellite daycare at the local county nursing home, Fairhaven, in November. The YMCA Child Development Center at Fairhaven is licensed for 58 children with their focus on infants and toddlers.

One additional center is currently under construction.

While this is all great news, there still remains a huge need for more providers. Data from 2021 shows that Shelby County had 4,268 children under age 6 with only half in some form of structured child-care. The current barrier for several individuals willing to establish child care facilities is the inability to locate appropriate commercial space. Any leads should be forwarded to Julie Ehemann at [jehemann@shelbyco.net](mailto:jehemann@shelbyco.net).

Our ultimate goal is to provide safe, loving care in a developmentally appropriate environment that encourages social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth in each child. With help from the community, we can work to make that happen for each Shelby County child.

## Housing Update

"I'm happy to report that our efforts to improve housing availability are yielding results," said SSEP's Jim Hill. "Housing was identified as a strategic priority in 2018, so it has taken a little time to turn the corner," added Hill.

Housing in Sidney-Shelby County is expanding. In fact, more than 750 new housing units are currently in the works. They include the following:

Anna: Timber Trails Phase 2 – 30 lots  
Botkins: Woodland Sub. – 3 lots (new phase in '24)

Ft. Loramie: New subdivision in planning stage

Jackson Center: Hudson Lake Phase 3 – 24 lots

Russia: Paulus Subdivision Phase 3 (14 lots) – 3 new condos

Sidney: Burr Oak – 108 lots in two phases

Sidney: Vision Dev. – 320 apartments at Kuther & Howard

Sidney: JDM Dev. – 216 apartments on Vandemark

Sidney: Downtown Units – 32 new/remodeled units

Another significant milestone is the launch of the brand new housing web portal, [SidneyHousing.com](http://SidneyHousing.com). This website was created to promote ways

to **Own, Invest and Develop** housing and related amenities in Sidney. We encourage you to visit the site to learn more!

To promote more housing revitalization, Downing Community Advisors was hired to carry out an 18-month scope of work focused on improving our housing capacity, especially housing revitalization.

The new website, [SidneyHousing.com](http://SidneyHousing.com), is a product of the Downing Advisors engagement. Next steps include restructuring of the Sidney Community Improvement Corp. to facilitate revitalization.

"Housing is currently a nationwide issue, and Shelby County is no exception," said Hill. "Our public and private sector leaders are working together to find solutions. I encourage everyone to check out [sidneyhousing.com](http://sidneyhousing.com) to learn more about the housing resources already available – and keep watching as additional tools and resources come available," added Hill.



### *Micropolitan, cont. from pg. 1*



Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik recently presented a proclamation from Governor Mike DeWine commending Sidney and Shelby County leadership for the #3 US Micropolitan Ranking.



# Workforce Wraps Up 2022-23 Ninja Challenge

Ten Shelby County schools and 834 eighth graders participated in the 2022-23 Ninja Challenge sponsored by Workforce Partnership. Representatives from Workforce, Area Energy & Electric, Ferguson Construction, Slagle Mechanical, and UVCC traveled to the schools.

Winners from each school were invited to participate in the Ninja Finals held at the Upper Valley Career Center on March 7, 2023.

Overall winners of the 2022-2023 Ninja Finals were:

**Female:** 1st—Faith Long, Sidney; 2nd—Amelie Phillips, Fairlawn; and 3rd—Ava Denise—Fairlawn.

**Males:** Samuel Philpot, Russia; Caleb Holthaus, Holy Angels, and 3rd—Kolton Hengstler, Anna.

**District Team Winner:** Anna.



*Ninja challenge finalists pose for a group photo at Upper Valley Career Center*



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## Sidney Hosts 2023 Riverway Summit



*ODOD Director Speaks – City Manager and SEMCORP VP Provide Project Update*

Several hundred community leaders throughout the region and state participated in the 2023 Riverway Summit held on April 14 at the Historic Sidney Theatre. Ohio Dept. of Development Director, Lydia Mihalik and Sidney City Manager Andrew

Bowsher were keynote speakers at the all-day event.

James Shih, VP of Global Operations for SEMCORP provided an update on the company's decision to invest nearly \$1 billion to locate manufacturing and North America Headquarters in Sidney. Shih said, "Our company chose Sidney due to factors such as the quality of the Career Center and career education." He also noted that the shovel-ready site, strong history in manufacturing and the friendly-welcoming community were significant factors.

Shih also commented that the company chose not to begin pouring footers over the winter. They are presently completing the building design and should begin that work soon.

## 40th Anniversary Save the Date



August 23, 2023  
5-7 pm  
Historic Sidney Theatre

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## Workforce Partnership Hosts Power Lunch



On February 24th, Workforce Partnership held its Annual Power Lunch at the Palazzo in Botkins. This luncheon provides an opportunity for high school students to network with prospective employers from Shelby County. This event is geared specifically for seniors that intend to enter the workforce directly upon graduation.

This activity experienced a growth in company and student participation. This year 25 companies participated compared to 17 the previous year. Students from 9 out of the 11 Shelby County school districts attended,



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