

shelby County SIZZLES

— A Publication of the Sidney–Shelby Economic Partnership —

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Workforce Partnership Holds Signing Event



Workforce Partnership (WP) held its annual Workforce Signing Event on May 17th at The Historic Sidney Theatre. This event celebrated partnerships between private industry and education that focuses on workforce development and attracting talent to fill local jobs.

Lt. Governor Jon Husted provided opening comments urging students to celebrate as they embark on their new pathway. Husted spoke about the independence, freedom, and pride that comes with a job.

Twenty-six students who were 2023 graduates signed commitments to work with a Shelby County employer in positions that included construction, dispatcher, electrician, healthcare, HVAC tech, machinist, manufacturing, mechanic, plumber, and welder. Past career coach alumni were also honored as well as an incoming 2024 work-study student.

The WP Career Coach program and Upper Valley Career Center were both valuable programs to these students' skills training and preparation for the workforce.



Continued on page 2

Superior Aluminum Expands

A ground breaking ceremony celebrating the 52,000 s.f. expansion at Superior Aluminum was held on July 20th in Russia.

"We are excited for the upcoming expansion of our facility. The dedication of the Superior team to building quality architectural products, on time, has led to explosive growth over the past 3 years. A good portion of this growth came from the South, and we initially explored a satellite location there to be closer to that growing customer base. However, due to tremendous support from this region

and the known outstanding work ethic in this part of the country, we decided to expand right here at home. We are very pleased how it all worked out!" – Doug Borchers, President of Superior Aluminum Products.



Anniversary Event

On behalf of the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership (SSEP) and Workforce Partnership of Shelby County (WP) our readers are invited to attend our anniversary event on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, from 5-7p.m. at the Sidney Historic Theatre. SSEP is celebrating its 40-year anniversary and WP is celebrating its 10-year Anniversary.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Aug. 23 – 5-7p.m.

Sidney Historic Theatre

"It will be a night to recognize and celebrate the many economic and community development achievements for both organizations," said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. "There will be a brief program beginning at 5:30 p.m. where we recognize some significant accomplishments," added Hill. "We hope you will join us for networking, refreshments, recognition and celebration," concluded Hill.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Downtown Sidney Lights Up

On May 31st about 50 community leaders and donors gathered at Tavalos Modern Italian to celebrate completion of the first phase of the Historic Downtown Sidney Enhancements. The highlight of the evening was the official lighting of the new archways.



Phase one enhancements included three lighted arches with pedestrian walkways, new seating and bike racks around the county courthouse, and improvements to Piper Park.

“At present more than \$1.5 million has been raised to carry out these and other improvements to further activate our downtown”, said Amy Breinich, Executive Director at Sidney Alive. “Our goal is to make the historic downtown more vibrant and pedestrian friendly as we continue to support the growth of more businesses and amenities,” said Breinich.

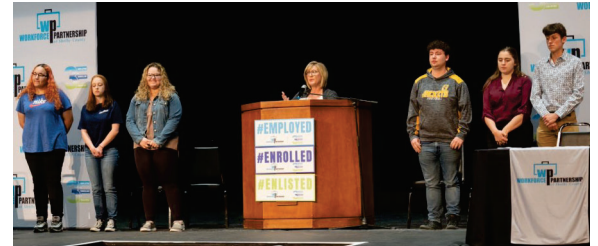
Two donor recognition plaques will be placed near the new arches in the near future.



Signing Event, *cont. from pg. 1*



WP awarded their inaugural scholarships to seven Shelby County graduates who will be pursuing either a technical certificate or 2-4 year college degree in career pathways that include business administration, diesel mechanic, engineer, finance, and welder. These scholarships were made possible through funding provided by the Ohio Department of Education Summer Learning and After-School Opportunities grant.



Also new this year, WP awarded STNA Certification scholarships to 23 local students planning to pursue a career in healthcare. The goal is to provide training for in-demand jobs while also removing barriers that may prevent students from achieving this certification. These scholarships were made possible through funding provided by the Ohio Department of Education Summer Learning and After-School Opportunities grant.

Riverway Trail Funding Secured

The Shelby County Commissioners were elated to be informed by the Ohio Department of Transportation that their submission for funding for the Great Miami Riverway Recreation Trail Project has been awarded funding of \$4,200,000 in Federal funds. The funds include 80% Federal TAP funding and 20% Federal Safety funding. The project consists of 2.3 miles of recreation trail which will connect the existing canal feeder trail in Sidney to the Village of Lockington. When complete, the trail will run from Shelby County at the northern end all the way to Hamilton County at the southern end for a total of 103 miles.



The entire project is estimated to cost \$5.7 million. In addition to the new TAP funding, the 2022 State of Ohio Capital Budget committed \$500,000. Other sources of funding are yet to be secured.

Commissioner Bornhorst commented, “I am so appreciative to ODOT for the TAP Grant. The hard work of many persons will come to fruition in completing another segment of the Great Miami Riverway Recreational Trail and connect Shelby County & Sidney to over 360 mile of paved trail in Southwest Ohio.” Bornhorst also noted that a lot of effort went into the application as a committee has been meeting, preparing documentation and planning since 2016.

Construction is hoped to commence in the fall of 2025.

The ODOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on- and off- road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trail program projects; and safe routes to school projects.

Wagner Demolition

A ceremony celebrating the demolition of the former Wagner Manufacturing complex was held at the site on June 26th.

Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, who was instrumental in helping secure funding for the project, recognized SSEP Board Members for their role in securing the funding.

"I want to point out Mick Given and Denny Sollmann," said Huffman. "They continued to advocate for the funding necessary to redevelop this site."

The Wagner Manufacturing complex includes more than a dozen interconnected buildings, and has been abandoned for some years, with much of the facility in danger of collapsing.

"A lot of people have worked for years on this project," Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation Vice-Chair and former Sidney Mayor Mike Barhorst stated, "many of them working behind the scenes."

The contract for hazardous materials abatement and demolition was awarded to Complete Demolition Services, Louisville, KY. Complete Demolition Services has begun mobilizing equipment at the site.

The SSEP Board designated the Wagner clean-up as a strategic priority in 2021 and led the community-wide effort to secure funding. Funding for the over \$4 million project comes from multiple sources.

The Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) was awarded \$2,815,000 for the cleanup and remediation of the site through the Ohio Brownfield Remediation Program. In addition, the city received a \$1.0 million earmark in the 2021-2022 State of Ohio Capital Budget bill and has budgeted an additional \$500,000 toward the site remediation. The Shelby County Commissioners have committed another \$250,000 toward the project.



Senator Huffman & Commissioner Guillozet take a swing at the Wagner Building wall

SEMCORP Update

"Many have asked about the status of the SEMCORP facility construction in Sidney," said SSEP's Jim Hill. Last fall, the company began site preparation, but decided not to proceed with late fall/winter construction schedule. Then passage of the Inflation Reduction Act created uncertainty regarding EV tax credits. The company expects to resolve these questions soon and proceed with construction, but a new construction timeline has yet to be established.

Ribbon Cutting



Ribbon Cutting at Victors Taco Shop on Vandemark Road

Welcome New Administrators



Changes in Administration at Villages:

- Adam Barga moved into the role of Russia Administrator last fall.
- Drew Sosby will be taking over as Jackson Center Administrator next summer upon the retirement of Bruce Metz.
- Bill Kessler was recently hired as the Administrator at Anna.

Airport Eyes Updates

Sidney City Airport will see rehabilitation of aprons B, D and F later this year. The contract, awarded to Barrett Paving Materials, calls for mill and fill of the areas.

During 2022, Taxiway A was resurfaced and new LED edge lighting was put in place. A new ramp was constructed in 2021 to accommodate future corporate hangars. Land is presently available for the new jet hangars.

The city is currently working with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for construction of a 35' wide partial parallel taxiway. The development of the new taxiway that will run parallel to the primary runway will enhance safety for airport users that in some instances have to back-taxi on the primary runway. This new taxiway would also increase the types of aircraft utilizing the airport. Plans for the parallel taxiway are currently under review along with the development of the FAA funding timeline.

The city has also requested 2024 federal government earmark funding through Representative Mike Carey's office to expand water and sewer infrastructure to the airport. This plan and infrastructure extension opens the door to a vast array of economic development opportunities and provides the region with regional air access.

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Wallace Family Learning & Innovation Center



The Wallace Family Learning and Innovation Center opened in April at 115 E. North Street in downtown Sidney, across the street from the Ross Historical Center. The facility highlights the history of Shelby County and inspires visitors to think about how they might make a difference in our community.

The Center contains six galleries. The first four feature our founding, transportation, agricultural and industrial history. Each gallery focuses on the three key leaders who had a significant impact on our successful growth.

The fifth gallery, titled *People of Impact*, features the top 60 people of influence who have made us who we are today. The final gallery, *Opportunity Awaits*, is designed to inspire young and old alike to live,

work and grow their family in Shelby County and take advantage of the many opportunities available here.

The Learning & Innovation Center is a multi-year project of the Shelby County Historical Society, and the result is outstanding! It is an educational, inspiring history center of which all of Shelby County can be proud. There were many donors who made this possible. It was created with the input of community members and the assistance of Eleven Fifty Seven and 1913 Media Group.

Hours are Monday through Friday – 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Other visits can be scheduled by calling 937-498-1653. More information can be found on their Facebook page, or on their website <https://www.shelbycountyhistory.org/>