

Shelby County SIZZLES

A Publication of the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership

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Fort Loramie Industrial Park Expands

The Village of Fort Loramie has been awarded a \$724,000 grant from the State of Ohio's One-Time Strategic Grant Program to support the expansion of the Fort Loramie Industrial Park. This project will unlock an additional 38 acres of land, creating several 3 to 5 acre lots for development. The expansion will not only enhance the village's ability to attract and accommodate new businesses but also provide opportunities for the future growth of the 13 world-class companies that currently call the industrial park home.



The SiteOhio team visits the industrial park during the Wave 5 Authentication process.

instrumental in marketing the industrial park to potential businesses, ensuring that the site meets the highest standards of readiness and appeal for industrial developers.

Mayor Randy Ahlers shared his excitement about the project, stating, "This grant is a tremendous opportunity for Fort Loramie. Expanding the Industrial Park and capitalizing on the enhanced wastewater treatment capacity, along with the SiteOhio authentication, will enable us to better support existing businesses and attract new industry to our village. This is a vital step in our ongoing efforts to foster economic development and ensure a prosperous future for our residents."

The existing industrial park already hosts 13 outstanding companies and has one spec building available for prospective businesses. The expansion, facilitated by the recently completed wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade in the spring of 2024, will significantly enhance the park's capacity to support industrial growth. The increased wastewater treatment capacity is a critical component in making the new industrial lots viable for development.

In tandem with these efforts, the Village of Fort Loramie is collaborating with Insite Consulting as part of the Wave 5 SiteOhio program authentication. This authentication will be

With the grant secured, the wastewater expansion complete, and the SiteOhio program underway, the Village of Fort Loramie is set to begin work on the industrial park expansion in the coming months. The new lots are expected to be available for development soon, marking a significant milestone in the village's growth and its commitment to providing robust infrastructure for business development.

For more information about the Industrial Park expansion, interested parties are encouraged to contact the Village of Fort Loramie office at 937-295-3088 or administrator@fortloramie.com

Curly's Custom Meats expands in Jackson Center

Curly's Custom Meats in Jackson Center held a Grand Opening in July of the new retail space and processing facility. The new facility, is located at 610 West Pike Street (SR 274). Curly's provides custom processing, wholesale sales, and retail sales.

Curly's has over 15 different flavors of bratwursts, marinated chicken and pork, their own



lineup of seasoning and sauces, and numerous other meat products. Walnut Creek provides Curly's with Amish canned goods, baked goods, and many other Amish foods. This new facility is a great addition to the Jackson Center Community!

Curly's has been proudly serving the area since 1961. For more information, visit www.curlysmcats.com

Canal House Opens



Nicki and Chad New have partnered with Laura and Mike Krusemark to open The Canal House in Port Jefferson. Recognizing the need for additional event space in the area, the News and Krusemarks have developed this picturesque property adjacent to the Great Miami River as an events center featuring three unique wedding ceremony locations, separate bridal and groom suites, and a newly constructed 5,600 sq. ft. reception space with seating to accommodate up to 250 guests. The Canal House is ideal for weddings, corporate events, holiday parties, prom, graduations, birthday celebrations, and everything in between.

Both partner couples are no strangers to operating a business and it's their mission to ensure all guests feel at home from the initial planning stage through the time the last guest exits the property. Together they are committed to working closely with their clients to make their wedding or special event the absolute best it can be within the venue itself, the amenities of the property, and the personal touches of their staff.

Many longtime residents of Shelby County know this 8760 Broad Street location as the site of the former Hussey's Restaurant. Established in 1933, Hussey's was famous for its fried chicken dinners, prime rib, duck watching and feeding. According to Laura Krusemark, yes, the ducks are still here.

Web site: <https://sidneyweddings.com/>



Copeland We Love STEM Day!

Copeland held their 6th annual We Love STEM Day this summer with more than 150 Copeland volunteers welcoming over 200 of their employees' children and grandchildren to join in the fun at the Sidney Middle School. Executive sponsor, Troy Brostrom, delivered the welcoming message. He stated in part, "Our passion for STEM is truly a reflection of our vision as Copeland, where together we create sustainable solutions that improve lives and protect the planet, today and for future generations. We know technology will continue to play an integral role in shaping our world, and so building that excitement for STEM in our youth is a great investment in our future. "



Kevin Cornell, Ed. S, aka Mister C, kicked off the event with an eye-catching and transformative STEM presentation to get kids fired up about the event - exploding paint cans, a toilet paper cannon and enormous elephant toothpaste eruptions! "Building a community of learners starts with inspiring children." says Mister C, a 20-year educator. "When you focus on making learning fun, kids fall in love with it and become willing to explore new science concepts on their own!"

This year's topics included ocean themed activities for K-2nd graders, teamwork and problem-solving for 3rd through 5th graders, and construction and design skills dedicated to Potential Energy for 6th through 8th graders.

Fun science experiments continued right through lunch as they enjoyed Cassano's pizza and K&J's ice cream!

Copeland appreciates the continued support of local sponsors with special thanks to Edison Tech Prep and the Sidney Middle School for their part in making this annual event a success!

Little Playful BEARS Childcare

Shelby County has been working to increase childcare availability for some time, so it is exciting to see a new facility planned for Botkins.

Little Playful BEARS is located at 202 W State Street, Botkins, and will serve up to 40 children when fully staffed. Owned by Greg and Joyce Behr, current plans are to have 20 slots for Daycare, and 15 for After School Care. Little Playful BEARS will be open from 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM for Daycare and 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM for After School Care. The Behr's hope to open in late October depending on the timing of their licensure. Once up and running, they are contemplating achieving Ohio's Step Up To Quality ratings.



Greg and Joyce have been planning for their new venture for some time as Greg has taken classes and training facilitated by 4C for Children to run their business. Joyce Behr is a licensed teacher in the Philippines with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, majoring in Special Education. She was also trained in Applied Behavior Analysis Consultant Services for children with Autism. Joyce then decided to pursue teaching in Early Childhood noting her heart is with younger children. She also taught in Kuwait for two years as a lead teacher in Early Years and an After School Care Program.

As Greg and Joyce reflect on their decision to open Little Playful Bears, they noted a quote on what this project means to them. Greg stated, "like Confucius, find a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life"

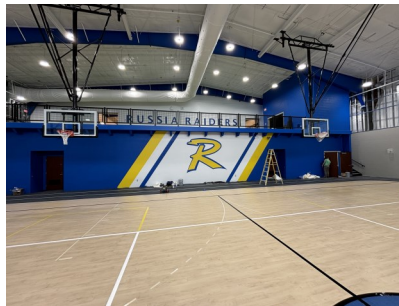
Russia Community Center Nears Completion

In the fall of 2023, Russia Local Schools started construction on a 22,000 square foot addition that includes a new Career Tech Classroom and Shop staffed by the Upper Valley Career Center, a Performing Arts Stage, a Community Wellness Center/Weight Room, and a Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. The Jr. High Gymnasium was converted into a New Varsity Gymnasium which will allow the CCN Gymnasium to be used for Jr. High athletics.



The new Career Tech classroom allows for the old industrial arts classroom to be converted into a traditional classroom which will provide room for a Shelby Hills Satellite Preschool Classroom. This will allow all of the special needs preschool students to be served in Russia.

This project was funded through a six mill levy that was passed in November of 2022 and over 3 million dollars in generous donations from the community. The Wellness Center opened to the community on Labor Day and the multi purpose gymnasium, which includes a 80' basketball court, two batting cages, and a golf simulator, is scheduled to open by mid –September. Without the support of the generous community, the construction of the Activity Center would not have been possible.



Russia School is excited to host the first varsity volleyball game in the new varsity gymnasium on September 17th and the drama club will be performing the musical Cinderella this fall on the new stage. This building project will be a tremendous asset for the entire Russia Community.

UVCC Continues Growth

The Upper Valley Career Center offers more than 25 career and technical education programs to both high school students and adults providing hands-on training, industry certifications, and pathways to post-secondary education and careers.

The main campus in Piqua is home to more than 1,200 juniors and seniors. Including its satellite locations, the Career Center serves 3,300 students. Those attending the Upper Valley Career Center come from 14 associate school districts throughout Miami and Shelby Counties, as well as others who are accepted through open enrollment.

The Adult Education program offers full-time certificate programs accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges. Adult learners gain skills, earn industry credentials, and prepare for licensure exams.

On September 4th the Career Center broke ground on an \$18M expansion project. This expansion will increase the footprint of the Piqua campus by nearly 25% and will significantly benefit multiple programs to include the Medical Careers Academy, First Responders Academy, Sports Medicine, Construction Technologies, Electrical Trades, Robotics & Automation, Building Maintenance, and Manufacturing & Machining Technologies.



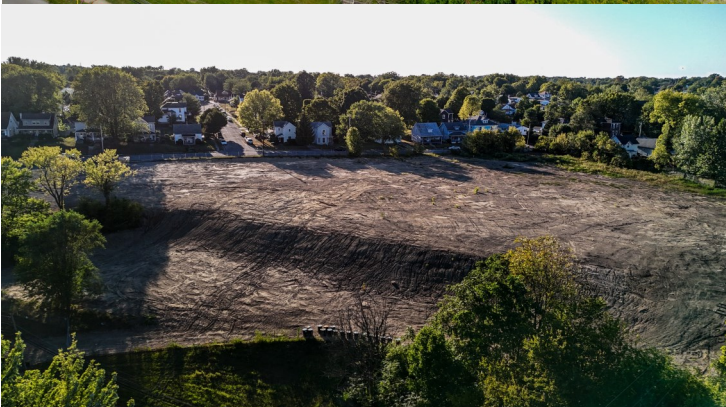
This expansion was made possible by the state of Ohio's Career Technical Construction Program and is estimated to be complete by October 2025, just in time for the Career Center's 50th anniversary.

Wagner Site Progress

Demolition of the Wagner Brownfield Site was recently completed and what a difference a few months can make!

Note the contrast of the site prior to demolition (upper photo) and the recent site photo (lower photo) that shows the site after the completion of all demolition activity.

The site is currently undergoing additional environmental testing with completion anticipated by the end of the year.



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Workforce Partnership Connects Industry & Education

For over a decade, Workforce Partnership (WP) has been a driving force in workforce development within Shelby County school districts, bridging the gap between industry and education.

Our mission is to prepare students for future careers while raising awareness of local opportunities. These students represent the future talent pipeline that local companies depend on for success. With the support of nearly 50 business partners, WP continues to expand its impact. To learn more, visit www.workforcepartner.com.

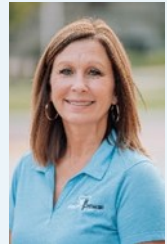
- Business Leaders: Learn how to become a Partner! Contact Deb McDermott, Executive Director
- Educators: Explore how WP can support your classroom! Contact Shelly Barhorst, Programming Coordinator.
- High school seniors: Entering the workforce after graduation? Meet with the Career Coach, Kelly Edwards.



Deb McDermott
deb@workforcepartner.com



Kelly Edwards
kelly@workforcepartner.com



Shelly Barhorst
shelly@workforcepartner.com

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL CAREER EXPLORATION ACADEMY
SEPT. 26-27 AT THE SHELBY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS!**