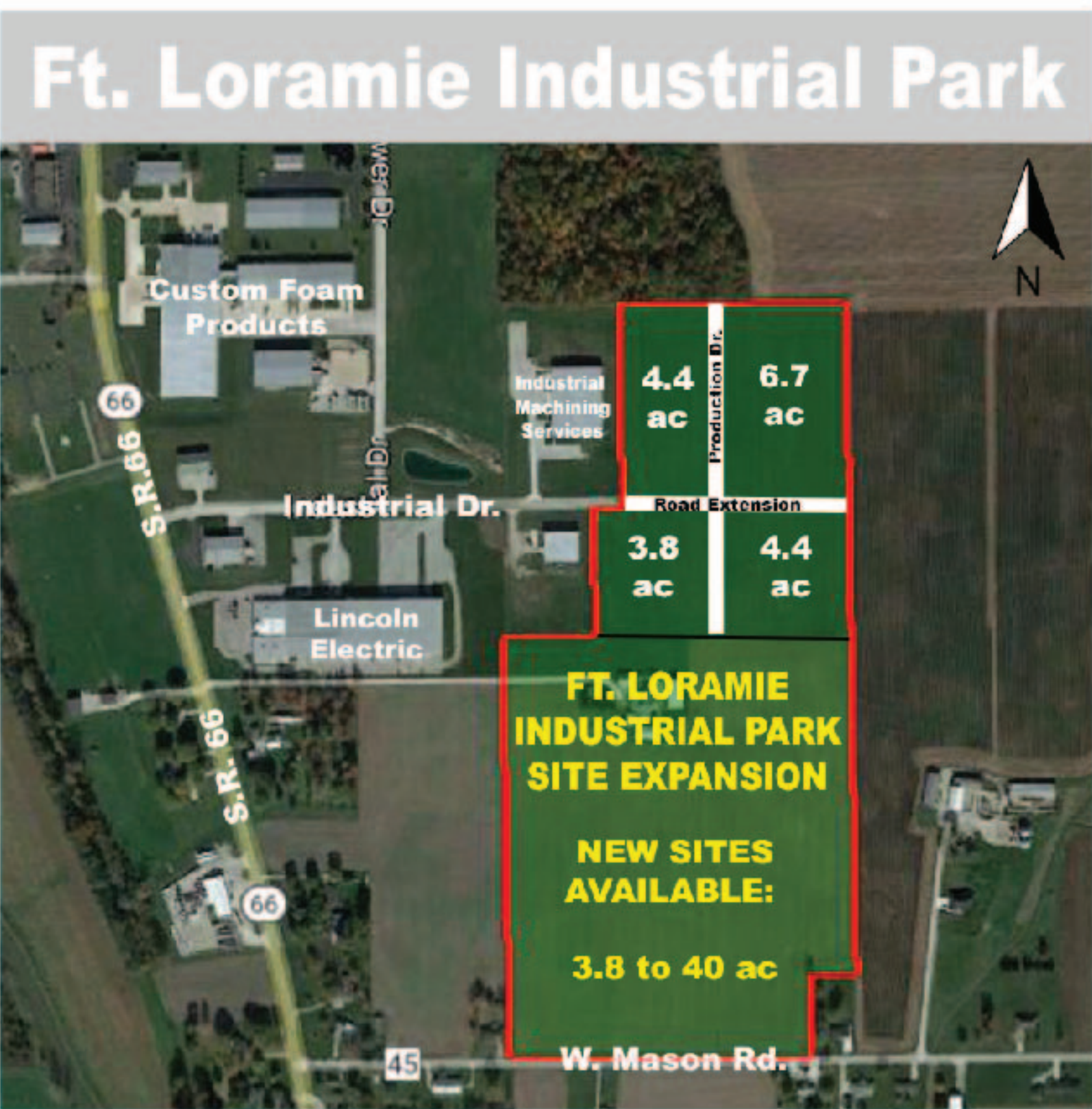


Ft. Loramie Industrial Park Expands



The Ft. Loramie Industrial Park expansion allows for several new sites, road and utility expansion.

Expansion of the Ft. Loramie Industrial Park is going out to bid in July with completion of the project expected by May of 2026. This project will unlock an additional 60 acres of land, creating new lots from 3.8 to 6.7 acre in size, with one site up to 40-acres. The expansion includes the extension of water, sewer and road infrastructure along Industrial Drive and Production Drive.

“This expansion of the Industrial Park will enable us to better support existing businesses and attract new industry to our village”, said Mayor Randy Ahlers. “We also continue to market the 24,000 s.f. spec building at 1000 Tower Drive that is available for sale or lease”, added Ahlers. “With an available building and shovel-ready sites, the village can offer several options for a growing business.”

The expansion is further bolstered by the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade completed last spring and was facilitated by a \$724,000 grant from the State of Ohio’s One-Time Strategic Grant Program.

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

Michigan Metal Coatings Opens in Sidney

After choosing Sidney to locate their new metal coatings operation in 2023, Michigan Metal Coatings, MMC, has completed the equipment installation and is now operating at 930 Vandemark Rd.

“The new coating line has started up successfully and we celebrated the first successful manufacturing run with customer products on June 26th,” said Yoshi Sato, Sidney Plant Manager. “Since then, we have gradually begun receiving additional products from customers and are now ramping up toward full-scale mass production,” added Sato.

MMC committed to invest \$20 million in new equipment and create 60 new full-time positions, with a total annual payroll of \$3.57 million. MMC anticipates hiring additional personnel as the ramp up materializes.

Michigan Metal Coatings is a leader in the application of chromium free, corrosion-resistant coating systems for Tier 1 automotive customers. Headquartered in Huron Michigan, MMC now operates three facilities in the U.S. MC Systems, its parent company, is located in Nagoya, Japan.

You can learn more at www.michmc.com



Yoshi Sato of MMC provided local officials and Scott Ryan from the Ohio Dept. of Development a preview of their new production facility in Sidney.



SIDNEY-SHELBY

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Sidney-Shelby County Ranked #12 Micropolitan Area

**By Site Selection Magazine in 2024 -
the 14th Consecutive Ranking in the Top 100!**

In March, Sidney again was ranked as a top Micropolitan by Site Selection Magazine. “This is the 14th consecutive year that Sidney-Shelby County ranked in the Top 100,” said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. “Ohio led the way among states with the most Top Micros with 20 communities ranking, including Sidney at #12,” added Hill.

Site Selection’s micropolitan rankings are based on the number of qualifying new or expanded investment projects each year. Sidney has ranked in the Top 100 for 14 consecutive years, with 2022 being the highest ranking at #3.

The Office of Management and Budget defines a micropolitan statistical area as a core urban area with a population between 10,000 and 49,999 along with adjacent counties within the commuter pattern.

“Sidney also ranks well in the Policom Economic Strength Rankings at #133 in 2024, making us the 3rd highest Ohio micropolitan in the Policom rankings,” said Hill. “Policom utilizes a broader formula to rate the long-term economic strength of a micropolitan area. Since 2015, Sidney has consistently ranked as one of Ohio’s top micropolitan areas in the Policom rankings.”

“Shelby County is indeed a manufacturing powerhouse and the statistics back that up.” Said Hill. “

- Highest manufacturing employment per capita in the State of Ohio, with 45.5% of the county employment in the manufacturing sector.
- Economic output in manufacturing totals more than \$9.1 billion annually.
- 4 of the top 6 manufacturing employers in the Dayton Region are located in Shelby County
- The Sidney zip code was recently ranked as the third hottest housing market in the Dayton region.



City, County, Chamber and SSEP leaders attended a Top Micropolitan Event in Sidney. Scott Ryan, ODOD Chief, Community Engagement, participated in the event, presenting a letter of accommodation from the State of Ohio.



Local officials sat down with Scott Ryan, ODOD Chief, Community Engagement, to discuss business development at the Top Micropolitan Event..

Little Playful BEARS Opens!

After months of planning and renovations, Little Playful BEARS officially opened on June 2nd and is welcoming children aged 30 months and up into a warm, joyful, and play-rich environment. Licensed for up to 40 children, the center provides a safe, nurturing space where every child experiences a true sense of belonging. Little Playful BEARS is located at 202 W. State Street in Botkins. It is owned by Greg and Joyce Behr.

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 of Elementary Education major 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. She also taught in Kuwait for two years as a lead teacher in Early Years and an After School Care Program.

During a recent open house, Joyce was very enthusiastic and shared that her passion is caring for children. This summer, they are offering flexible care options—full-time, part-time, and drop-in—to accommodate busy families. The summer program is packed with hands-on learning, outdoor play, creative activities, and meaningful social experiences.

Looking ahead, Greg and Joyce will offer comprehensive care for the school year, including daycare, before-school, and after-school programs, making Little Playful BEARS a reliable part of a child's daily routine. Greg stated, "We are proud to introduce our dedicated, experienced teachers, all fully trained in First Aid and CPR, committed to providing the highest standards of safety and care."

Contact littleplayfulbear@gmail.com for more info!

Botkins Welcomes New Child Care facility

OUR CHILD CARE SERVICES!
Now Enrolling Children
Ages 30 Months and Up!
"Providing Quality Care for Young Children,
Peace of Mind for Working Parents."

PROGRAMS WE OFFER

HOURS OF OPERATION
Monday to Friday | 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM

SUMMER SERVICES	SCHOOL YEAR SERVICES
• Full-Time Summer Care	• Full-Time Daycare
• Part-Time Summer Care	• Part-Time Care
• Drop-Offs	• Before-School Care
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WHY CHOOSE US?

- Qualified and experienced in early childhood education
- Passionate about nurturing young minds through play-based learning
- CPR & First Aid certified for your child's safety and peace of mind
- Committed to creating a loving, supportive, and engaging environment

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littleplayfulbear@gmail.com
Little Playful BEARS
202 West State Street,
Botkins, Ohio 45306

Choice One to Expand in Sidney

A vacant commercial office building in Sidney is getting a new lease on life, thanks to a local civil engineering firm based in the city. Choice One Engineering will revitalize a vacant property located in Sidney's west warehouse district at 2633 Campbell Road. The 26,000-square-foot office facility's renovation will include the demolition and remodel of 15,000 squarefeet of office space, break areas and restrooms, along with other major building updates.

The acquisition of this new facility, which has been largely vacant for five years, will enable the company to move its employees from its current headquarters, immediately add 12 new jobs and continue to expand its workforce with nine full-time employee positions within three years.

"Choice One Engineering is excited to continue our growth in the City of Sidney, where we were founded 31 years ago," said Choice One Engineering President Matt Hoying. "Having this opportunity means we get to stay close to the communities and people who have supported us over the years and allows us to continue to invest in those communities."

The firm held an informal "wall breaking" at the end of June, where the team took sledgehammers to a wall in the building to kick off renovations alongside Level MB Construction.



"We and our partners at JobsOhio welcome Choice One Engineering's investment in Sidney," said Dayton Development Coalition Executive Vice President of Regional Development Julie Sullivan. "Their growth is a win for the Ohio economy and we're proud to partner with them in building a stronger, more vibrant community." Collaborators JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition, the City of Sidney and the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership worked with Choice One to find a solution that prevented the company from considering a move out of the area.

At a Sidney City Council meeting held in June 2025, the city approved a 15-year, 75% tax abatement for Choice One Engineering for its purchase of the building. The abatement is estimated to be \$348,000.

"As the City's long-standing engineering partner, Choice One Engineering has been an integral part of our community's progress and success," said the City of Sidney's City Manager Andrew Bowsher. "Their continued investment in Sidney is not only a testament to their growth but also a powerful signal of confidence in our city's future. We are thrilled to see this next chapter unfold and are confident that their commitment will bring lasting benefits to both their business and the greater Sidney community."

Choice One Engineering is a growing civil engineering firm with more than 85 employees and offices in Sidney and Loveland. Established in 1994, Choice One's services include civil engineering, landscape architecture and surveying. The company saw a 2024 revenue of \$18.3 million – up 19 % since 2023.

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4th Annual Signing Event Celebration!

The Workforce Partnership of Shelby County proudly hosted its 4th annual Signing Event, honoring high school seniors who have chosen to enter the workforce directly after graduation. Held at the Historic Sidney Theatre, the event drew a full house of family members, educators, business leaders, and community supporters. More than a celebration of job offers, the Signing Event highlighted the vital connection between education and the local economy. A total of 28 students took the stage to sign "Letters of Intent" with regional employers, officially launching their professional careers.

Participating employers included: Air Handling Inc., Area Energy & Electric Inc., Continental Express Inc., Copeland, D&S Construction, Ferguson Construction Company, Honda, Kirk National Lease Inc., Lincoln Electric Automation, Lochard Inc., Momentec Brands, Primary Eye Care, Sidney Body CarStar, Slagle Mechanical Contractors, Sollmann Electric Inc., and Wilson Health.



Ohio Dept. of Development Director Lydia Mihalik congratulated students, parents, teachers and school administrators for preparing signing event participants for their new careers.

Every school district in the county was represented, including: Anna, Botkins, Christian Academy, Fairlawn, Fort Loramie, Houston, Jackson Center, Lehman Catholic, Opportunity School, Russia, Sidney and Upper Valley Career Center. In addition to the workforce signings, the event recognized recipients of the Career Launch and Certified Nursing Assistant scholarships, as well as students joining the Ohio Mentorship Program.

The Signing Event underscores a growing awareness of the value of careers in skilled trades, manufacturing, logistics, and other high-demand sectors in the region. Many of the students honored had previously participated in the Workforce Partnership Career Coach program or the Upper Valley Career Center's pre-apprenticeship program. Event sponsors included Hometown Opportunity, Ohio College Tech Prep – West Region, Ferguson Construction Company, and Area Energy & Electric Inc.

