

# Shelby County SIZZLES

— A Publication of the Sidney–Shelby Economic Partnership —

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## CBT Expands in Sidney

CBT is near completion on a new 24,375 s.f. training & distribution center on Norcold Dr. in Sidney. The project will retain 30 jobs and invest approximately \$4.8 million. This expansion includes the relocation of the company's operation from Stolle Dr. to Norcold Dr. sometime in 2026.



*Pictured: The new CBT building at its new location on Norcold Dr. in Sidney.*

## Sollmann Electric Plans Expansion

Sollmann Electric, a local electrical contractor with a 53-year legacy in Sidney plans to expand to the CBT building at 2450 Ross St. The project involves the relocation of 48 employees and other assets from their current office at 310 East Russell Rd. Once completed, the company will also create 10 new full-time employee positions.



*Pictured: The CBT location on Ross St. in Sidney will become the expansion site for Sollman Electric.*

This growth will position the company as an even stronger asset to the City of Sidney, creating opportunities for workers to pursue lucrative skilled trade careers through employment and apprenticeship pathways.

In early March, the City of Sidney approved a CRA agreement, supporting the project.



*Pictured: (left) Nate Burns is recognized by the late Mick Given (right) for his SSEP board service.*

## SSEP Board Recognition

SSEP President Mick Given recognized outgoing board member Nate Burns at the board meeting in December. Nate served two terms on the SSEP, including a term on the Executive Committee. Nate is the founder of Burns Heating & Air Cooling LLC.

Mick Given served 27 years on the board, with 25 as chairman or vice chairman. He was planning to serve as chairman again in 2026, when he unexpectedly passed away. Mick was the longtime Chairman of Ferguson Construction Company, where he became the CEO in 2018. He was also a founding board member of the Workforce Partnership. Mick's service to the SSEP is historic and he will be greatly missed.

## Ohio Launches Child Care Credit Program

The Ohio Child Care Cred Program (launched 2025) is a \$10 million initiative designed to lower child care costs by splitting expenses between families, employers, and the state. It supports working families (200%–400% of the federal poverty level) with Ohio-based employers through a joint application process via the Ohio Department of Children and Youth.

The application process requires a joint application from both the employer and employee through the Department of Children and Youth.

For more [information visit:](https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/child-care-cred-program) <https://childrenandyouth.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/child-care-cred-program>

# UVCC Completes Expansion

The Upper Valley Career Center recently completed a 57,000-square-foot, \$18 million expansion designed to expand training opportunities in high-demand career fields. The project, which broke ground in September 2024, was funded through the State of Ohio's Career Technical Construction Program with \$12.7 million in state funding and \$5.3 million from UVCC. The expansion increased enrollment capacity by 150 students and has created new opportunities for both high school and adult learners.

Several high school programs, including the Medical Careers Academy, First Responders Academy, Sports Medicine, Construction Technologies, Electrical Trades, Robotics & Automation, Building Maintenance, and Manufacturing & Machining Technologies, received upgrades to their labs. The new wing also serves as the home for UVCC's Adult Education healthcare programs.

Beyond the additional space, the expansion delivered significant equipment upgrades designed to strengthen workforce training in healthcare, robotics, industrial automation and other program areas.

Superintendent Jason Haak noted that the expansion reflects the commitment of staff and the continued growth of career-technical education in the region. "Expanding programming, adding staff and students, while maintaining our high-quality standards goes directly back to how much our faculty and staff invest in our students," Haak said. "Our staff is second to none."



*Pictured: An ariel view of the UVCC expansion ribbon cutting.*



*Pictured: The new UVCC medical lab.*

## Jackson Center Childcare Public Private Partnership

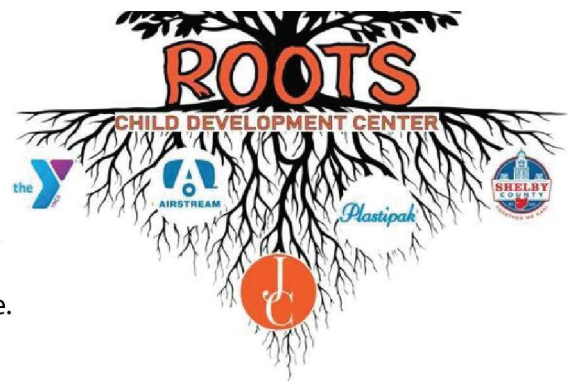
The Village of Jackson Center and Jackson Center CIC purchased 209 W. Pike Street (Old Historical Society Museum) for the purpose of providing a Childcare Facility. The Jackson Center Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) is currently renovating the building to transition the space for childcare.

In addition to the Village and CIC, this project is also sponsored by the Board of the Shelby County Commissioners. Noting the huge need in the community for childcare, Airstream and Plastipak Packaging have committed funding to help kick-start the project. The facility will be run by the Sidney-Shelby YMCA who currently manages childcare at their main campus and a satellite at Fair Haven Nursing Home.

"This is one more opportunity for the County to share in the commitment to childcare and our local workforce" said Commissioner Julie Ehemann. "It is vitally important persons going to work each day are confident their children are being cared for in a nurturing environment," added Ehemann.

Village Administrator Drew Sosby stated, "We are very excited about this project for the community and residents! On behalf of the Village residents, Shelby County, and employers that recognize the importance of childcare in our communities, we are beyond grateful for those that have contributed to this cause thus far. Stay tuned for more information and updates!"

The Roots Child Development Center is planning to open this coming summer and will accept enrollments for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. Anyone with questions or wishing to be put on the waitlist should contact the Sidney- Shelby County YMCA or Tori Faulder (Director, Y Child Development Center) at [tfaulder@sidney-ymca.org](mailto:tfaulder@sidney-ymca.org)



# Choice One Completes Renovation

Choice One Engineering opened its newly renovated office at 2633 Campbell Road in Sidney with a formal ribbon-cutting on January 23, 2026. The expanded space positions Choice One to continue delivering high quality engineering services while creating additional opportunities for its growing team.

The civil engineering firm's current 59 Sidney employees have settled into the new space after the six-month, \$1.2 million renovation transformed 15,000 square feet of the 26,000- square-foot facility into a modern workspace designed to enhance collaboration and support up to 12 new local jobs in the next three years.

The firm plans to renovate the remaining 11,000 square feet of the building in future phases, further supporting local investment and long-term growth. Along with the firm's Loveland, Ohio office, Choice One's 86 total employees are proud to acknowledge Sidney as the founding point of the firm and looks forward to many more years of partnership with the communities and clients that have shaped its success.



*Pictured: Choice One Engineering staff at the ribbon cutting for its new location at 2633 Campbell Rd. in Sidney.*

# Home Ownership Pilot Completed



*Pictured: Katherine Gonzales Varela (middle) receives the keys to her new home from SSEP Executive Director, Jim Hill (right).*

"Housing has been at top priority for SSEP and I'm pleased to report that 2025 was another great year for new housing growth, said Jim Hill, Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership Executive Director. A total of 315 new housing units were added throughout the county in 2025."

SSEP collaborated with Sidney Community Improvement Corp. (CIC) to launch a new Home Ownership Program Pilot designed to make home ownership more accessible for local families while also supporting neighborhood stability. The pilot's first home was built on Broadway Avenue in Sidney, with construction beginning in the fall of 2025. The project was made possible through support from the CenterPoint Energy Foundation, Cargill Corporation, SSEP, Shelby County United Way, and the Community Foundation of Shelby County. Together these partners helped bring the pilot program from concept to reality.

"In addition to providing an affordable home for a Shelby County family, our goal was to promote neighborhood revitalization," said Hill. By late December, leading candidates were referred to Osgood Bank for loan approval, with a purchase contract signed shortly thereafter. The home officially closed in late January, welcoming a new homeowner into the neighborhood.

The CIC has applied for grant funding to support construction of one additional home in 2026 and another in 2027, with the goal of continuing to expand access to affordable homeownership, primarily for working families in Shelby County.

Those interested in future opportunities can visit the SSEP website, select the "CIC Home Ownership" under the "Living Here" menu and sign up to receive updates when the next round becomes available.



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## Sidney-Shelby County Ranked #14 Micropolitan Area

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

The Sidney-Shelby Metropolitan Area was ranked as the #14 US Micropolitan by *Site Selection magazine* in 2024. This is the 14th consecutive year being named to the prestigious list. The micropolitan area that includes Sidney and Shelby County moved from #4 in 2023 to #14.

"The 14-year run as a Top Micro is a testament to the strong economic base we have in Shelby County. This data confirms that Shelby County is a great place to live, work and do business," said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. Micropolitan areas are defined as regions located outside of a metropolitan area.

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## JobsOhio Relocation Incentive Program

This new initiative is designed to attract out-of-state STEM and technical talent to Ohio. It provides \$15,000 for each qualifying out-of-state worker who relocates to Ohio to fill a permanent W2 position in targeted industries.

The program operates on a first-come, first-served basis, requiring companies to establish a baseline of previous out-of-state hiring. Employees must fall within a targeted industry.

For more information visit  
[https://www.jobsohio.com/workforce-talent/  
jobsohio-relocation-incentives](https://www.jobsohio.com/workforce-talent/jobsohio-relocation-incentives)

