

ISSUE 32 — FALL 2019

SHELBY

C O U N T Y

Sizzles

Custom Foam Products Expands Again

Custom Foam Products recently broke ground on a 47,500 s.f. expansion in Ft. Loramie. In order for the expansion to move forward, the Village of Ft. Loramie had to relocate a retention pond. The site required 1,700 truck loads of fill.



According to co-owners Steve Sherman and Nick Fullenkamp, the additional space will position the company for future growth. They attribute their success to great employees and the proper equipment to meet customer needs. Custom Foam Products is an innovative foam fabrication company specializing in foam materials for a broad range of applications. The company was founded in 1998 and currently employs 50 people.

Botkins Breaks Ground on Second Spec Building

About one year after building their first building, Botkins Investments LLC recently broke ground on a second industrial spec building in the Botkins Industrial Park. This new building will total 30,000 s.f., offer three dock doors, three overhead doors and can be divided for three separate tenants.



"We were successful in attracting Airtow, which created jobs for Botkins, so we want to do it again," said Josh Meyer of Botkins Investment Group LLC. The nine investors, contractor and sub contractors are all back for this building," added Meyer.

The Village of Botkins is offering tax incentives to reduce the costs of this development. Interested parties should contact Josh Meyer at meyerstav@gmail.com or info@choosesidneyshelby.com



Shelby County is celebrating its Bicentennial in 2019 followed by the City of Sidney's Bicentennial in 2020. All festivities will celebrate the rich history of Sidney and Shelby County.

Lecture Series: Shelby County Salute to Shelby County Veterans

November 11, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Sidney Municipal Court
Monumental Building
110 West Court Street

Bicentennial Ball

February 22, 2020
8:00 p.m.—Midnight
Shelby County Courthouse
100 East Court Street

Tree City Celebration

April 17, 2020

Vietnam Traveling Wall Exhibit

May 13—17, 2020

Unveiling of Restored Sgt. Baker

May 25, 2020
Monumental Building
110 West Court Street

Details can be found on the Visitor's Bureau web site, VisitSidneyShelby.com, and on Facebook at Shelby County Ohio Bicentennial Celebration.

Airstream Update—Excitement is Building!



While much of the focus has been on the fact that Airstream’s travel trailer production will migrate down the road, Airstream’s touring coach production is poised to expand as well. Once the travel trailer operations move to the new facility, work will begin on upgrading the nearly 50-year-old vacated building to prepare it for its new life as Airstream’s touring coach production facility.

“This is the next step in a long journey,” said Wheeler. “We’ve got nearly 90 years of success and learning behind us, and the future of Airstream is bright.”

Much of the exterior work on the \$40 million plant is complete, and the focus has shifted inside where teams are working toward completion of the 750,000 square-foot facility which will include an onsite cafeteria and health services for Airstream associates and their families.

Currently, travel trailer production is slated to begin moving into the new building in December, with full production anticipated to be up and running in January 2020.

“We couldn’t be more excited,” said Airstream President and CEO Bob Wheeler of the new production facility located just a mile down the road from Airstream’s current location. “This expansion has been on the minds of everyone here in Jackson Center for a while now – it’s nice to see plans becoming a reality.”

Once the production facility is completed, the focus will shift to finishing Airstream’s new corporate office space and completion of the Airstream Heritage Center.



Career Connecting and Exploration in Action

On September 20th, 1,300+ high school seniors from a four-county region traveled to Edison State Community College to network with regional companies. The mission was to motivate students and provide them with career connections. These future high school graduates navigated a Business Expo that featured 100+ companies and learned about local employment and internship opportunities. THANK YOU to the Shelby County event sponsors: City of Sidney, Shelby County, OhioMeansJobs, Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership, Workforce Partnership, and Hometown Opportunity.

On September 26 & 27, the fifth annual Career Exploration Academy was held at the Shelby County Fairgrounds. The annual event featured 30 career stations where hands-on career skills were demonstrated. Approximately 1,000 students from grades 8-12 and representing every school district in Shelby County participated in this exploration event. Thank you to the United Way of Shelby County for sponsoring the event, and to all the companies and representatives who participated. The effort and enthusiasm displayed is phenomenal and is what makes this day both fun and educational for the stu-



Honda



Wells Brothers



Sidney Fire Dept.



Slagle

TownePlace Suites Breaks Ground



Sunrise Hospitality Vice President N B Patel (center) is joined by many local dignitaries from Shelby County at a September ground breaking to officially begin construction of the new TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Sidney.

Community Visioning Update



More than 75 community and business leaders gathered at the Historic Sidney Theatre on Oct. 15th for a Business After Hours event. The agenda included updates on key initiatives in the area of housing, marketing/branding, placemaking, and downtown development.

The next SSEP Visioning Session will be Nov. 12th at 8 am at the Amos Public Library.

Census Outreach to Business Community

As Shelby County prepares for the 2020 census, an intern has been hired to help coordinate the Complete Count Sub-committees and their outreach. One of the targeted sub-committees is our local business community. The importance of the Census for our business community can be seen when the data is examined. Data that is collected includes local population counts by zip code. Counts by age, sex, and race are determined. Housing units are counted as are the numbers of married persons. Data includes the languages spoken in the home as well as the education level attained. All of this information becomes important to businesses as they work to determine where their target market lives. It can help determine the overall health and composition of local industry and competing businesses. This data can help determine what complementary businesses might fit into a particular market the role that business suppliers can have on a location of a business. Our local community's attributes are all available as businesses make decisions on location, expansions, and even the product mix that might be offered.

We encourage businesses to be a part of the Census campaign. Business leaders can volunteer to assist the sub-committee in their outreach efforts. They can also encourage their employees and customers to complete the census.

To assist in the Complete Count Committee, please contact Jennifer Wentz at jenniferwentz@mail.com or Julie Ehemann at jehemann@shelbyco.net.

**A SPECIAL
THANK YOU TO
OUR SPONSORS**



AREA WIRELESS SUPERSTORE
624 N Vandemark Rd.
Hours: M-F 9-6 & Sat. 10-2

AREA WIRELESS
2262 Michigan St.
Hours: M-F 10-8 & Sat. 10-6

www.AreaWirelessInc.com
Facebook: Area Wireless Superstore

www.nktelco.net
1-888-NKTELCO



BUSINESS & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
PHONE • CABLE TV • INTERNET • WIRELESS INTERNET
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS • THE VAULT

FIBER IS FASTER
We have it and you can too!



Finding Houses, Making Homes for Over 30 Years

216 East Poplar St.
Sidney, OH 45365
(937) 507-4341
www.gaysmith.com



450 Folkerth Avenue
Sidney, Ohio 45365
937-492-6010
www.hiexpress.com/sidneyoh



Hampton Inn Sidney
1600 Hampton Court, Sidney OH 45356
937-498-8888

Inside This Issue

- Custom Foam Products Expands Again
- Botkins Breaks Ground on 2nd Spec Building
- Airstream Update—Excitement is Building
- Career Connection and Exploration in Action
- TownePlace Suites Breaks Ground
- Community Visioning Update
- Census Outreach to Business Community
- Downtown Revitalization—New Tools

Thank you to our contributors:

SSEP; Kari Egbert, City of Sidney; Julie Ehemann, Shelby County; and Jeff Raible, Sidney-Shelby County Chamber. The publishers invite your comments, suggestions, story ideas, and sponsorship of future issues. If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Jim Hill** at jhill@choosesidneyshelby.com.

* For a free digital copy of Shelby Sizzles, please visit www.choosesidneyshelby.com.

Downtown Revitalization—New Tools Aid in Sidney Efforts

The adoption of new economic development tools is leading to results in downtown Sidney. The Downtown Revitalization District allows special liquor licenses within the district boundaries for restaurants that have 75% of their total gross receipts from food sales. One local business owner is already taking advantage of this offering. The Sidney City Council will also soon be exploring the feasibility of establishing a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) as more restaurants consider locating in the downtown area.

The city recently established a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. PACE is a flexible financing tool to help commercial building owners pay for energy efficient building improvements with no money out of pocket. PACE allows the building owner to pay for improvements as they reap the benefits of lower energy and maintenance bills. Payments for the improvements are collected through a voluntary municipal special assessment attached to the building, not the owner, and are paid back through the annual property tax bill for up to 30 years.

Another program available to property owners in the downtown Sidney area is the Greater Downtown Area Community Reinvestment Area (CRA). CRA abatements provide incentives in the form of real property tax exemptions for owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings in the targeted area. The city recently approved a CRA abatement to facilitate the redevelopment of the first floor of the former Fifth Third Bank building into a restaurant.



Work is underway at 101 S. Ohio Ave. in Sidney

"The City is adding these programs in order to accelerate downtown redevelopment," said City Manager Mark Cundiff. "These tools are key to revitalization of the Ohio Building and other properties in the district," added Cundiff. "Downtown Sidney's potential for revitalization is tremendous, especially with its outstanding historic architecture and pedestrian-friendly environment."