

ISSUE 26 — SPRING 2018

SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles

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Airstream Announces Largest-Ever Expansion of Its Manufacturing Facilities

\$40 million investment to continue handcrafting iconic travel trailers



Airstream, Inc., manufacturer of the iconic "silver bullet" travel trailer, is poised to break ground on the most significant plant expansion in company history. The enhanced Jackson Center facility will support improved product quality, create jobs, enable increased production, and improve experiences for Airstream associates, customers and visitors.

The \$40 million project to create a new 750,000 square-foot facility, which will also be completely powered by renewable energy credits, is set to break ground in late spring 2018 with completion expected in 2019. This expansion is the latest example of Airstream's long-standing commitment to continuous innovation, quality control, and its Made in America philosophy. As a result of this investment, the craftspeople at the heart of Airstream's assembly process will have more production space to make the world's most iconic recreational vehicle.

The plant expansion will consolidate multiple production spaces into one facility, bringing the assembly of the company's travel trailers

under one roof. The current 255,000 square-foot travel trailer plant will be converted for use building Airstream's motorized touring coaches, freeing up production space to support a growing line of products that appeal to a broad spectrum of RV enthusiasts. Airstream will remain one of the world's smaller RV manufacturers.

As a result of the expanded capacity, Airstream expects to hire additional associates, bringing total employment in Jackson Center to around 1200 people. A state-of-the-art training center in the new factory will provide Airstream and dealer associates with a hands-on shop floor environment for earning certifications, learning new skills, and mastering new production and maintenance techniques. Plans also include

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the addition of an associate cafeteria, improved parking, and outdoor break areas.

Airstream's current Jackson Center facility has long been a popular destination for Airstream owners and other tourists seeking a glimpse inside the company's hand-made manufacturing process. A new Heritage Center will enhance those visits with exhibits illustrating the company's 87 years of inspiring adventure and help drive regional tourism in nearby communities. Plans call for the display of numerous classic and historic Airstream products, including artifacts from the relationship between Airstream and NASA's space program.

Airstream began operating in Jackson Center, Ohio in 1952. The current plant was built in 1971. The Jackson Center campus has been Airstream's sole manufacturing location since 1979.

More news about Airstream, can be found at airstream.com (<http://www.airstream.com>). For the latest news on Airstream, "like" them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter @Airstream_Inc.



Jackson Center's Airstream factory in

Sidney Named in Prestigious Top 100 Micropolitan List

In 2017, Ohio produced more Top 100 micropolitans than any other state. The City of Sidney was included on this prestigious nationwide list, tied in the number 18 spot, having five projects meeting the award parameters. In 2016, Sidney was 32nd on the list of Top 100 Micropolitans.

City Manager Mark Cundiff stated, "We are pleased that our local businesses and industry continue to see the tremendous value of the assets and resources available in Sidney as they plan expansions. There is and has always been real opportunity here in Sidney."

Site Selection's award focuses on new corporate facility projects with significant impact, including headquarters, manufacturing

plants, research & development operations and logistics sites, among others. It does not track retail and government projects, or schools and hospitals. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: (a) involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million, (b) create at least 20 new jobs or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. of new floor area.

The Office of Management and Budget has identified 536 Micropolitans in the U.S. The OMB defines a micropolitan statistical area as one or more adjacent counties that has one urban core area (a city) of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core (measured by commuting ties).

1157designconcepts Constructing New Facility

Big things are underway at 1157designconcepts in Sidney (<http://www.1157designconcepts.com>). According to Evelyn Flock, President and CEO, 1157designconcepts designs and builds custom donor recognition systems that express appreciation for

Ten years after purchasing the recognition division from Vision-Mark, 1157designconcepts has outgrown their current facilities. This past October the company broke ground for a new 16,000 square foot building that will increase production capacity by 70%. The interior layout features collaborative and creative spaces where employees can address the ever-changing demands of the recognition industry. The 1157 process brings the entire creative and manufacturing team together when working with clients. This approach consistently delivers a more dynamic, creative solution for their customers.

Increased production capacity and their proven collaborative process have 1157designconcepts excited about their future. It's notable that 70% of the company's employees have 10+ years of experience in designing and constructing custom donor recognition displays. The company expects to move into its new facility in late May of this year.



philanthropy and achievement. Their business was established on a desire by their clients to say "Thank You." 1157designconcepts works with over 2,500 major colleges, leading medical centers and hospitals, independent schools, and not-for-profit organizations throughout the United States. Essentially, the finished projects of 1157designconcepts bring their clients' stories to life.

SSEP Organization Announcement

The Board of the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership (SSEP) is pleased to announce that Mr. Jim Hill has been hired as our new Executive Director, replacing Mike Dodds as he retires from his successful career in economic development. Since the inception of SSEP in 1983, Sidney and Shelby County have seen great growth and success in economic development. During this time we have been blessed to have strong leadership in our Executive Directors. Under Mike's direction Shelby County now has certified, shovel-ready sites for new industrial development. Also, in 2012 the Workforce Partnership of Shelby County was formed after businesses shared their concerns about a lack of qualified workers.

"Even though it is going to be difficult to say "good-bye" to Mike, who has successfully led SSEP since 2006, it is also a great time to start a new chapter for the future growth of Shelby County," stated Mick Given, Board President. "Jim has worked in this region throughout his career and has extensive knowledge of economic development in our area. In addition, Jim has experience in workforce development, which will be a good fit in working with Deb McDermott who is our Director of the Workforce Partnership initiative."

Jim has served as Economic Development Director in Miami and Darke counties, the Business Incubation Manager at The Entrepreneurs Center in Dayton, and most recently he successfully led the Sinclair Community College launch of Ohio TechNet, a collaborative effort to create and deliver a new, innovative, competency-based model for advanced manufacturing training. Jim will start his new role with SSEP on April 23rd.

"Shelby County is the home to strong communities, world-class companies, and a robust agricultural heritage," said Jim Hill. "I'm excited to work with community, school and business leaders to continue on a pathway of growth. I am also

very impressed with the early innovation by business leaders that led to the formation of the Workforce Partnership. It is an example of leadership and collaboration to meet the critical needs of both businesses and employees."

"Shelby County has maintained the highest percentage of manufacturing jobs in the entire state and is home to two of the top manufacturing employers in the Dayton region. That doesn't happen by accident – it is an impressive achievement! The Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership is healthy and positioned well for the future. I commend Mike Dodds for his many achievements and years of leadership in the community," added Hill.

The SSEP Board is looking forward to Mr. Hill hitting the ground running to help Shelby County continue to move economic development initiatives forward into the future.



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



Partnering with Fairlawn Schools

The Workforce Partnership (WP) is proud to announce support of Fairlawn Schools "Workforce Hangar," scheduled for 2018-2019! Fairlawn has been an active participant in WP activities and events during the past years. Fairlawn's administration consistently demonstrates creativity and enthusiasm in serving their



students by emphasizing the importance of developing the skills and discipline needed for future success.

Early this year, Fairlawn Schools

announced their plans to strengthen their district by introducing a specific space for workforce education. After much planning, the Fairlawn administration presented their project to the WP advisory board for funding consideration. The board members voted unanimously to contribute funding towards the project and are excited to see this type of growth in the county schools. The renovation plans for their current library will transform the space's functionality for all grade levels and will serve as classrooms for curriculum and activities that cultivate employment soft skills, hands-on STEM learning, business/career exploration, and pathway development. WP looks forward to being a partner in Fairlawn's vision!

Investment Group Closes Deal on Botkins Industrial Park Land

The Village of Botkins is excited to announce the sale of 2 acres of land at the Botkins Industrial Park. The Village closed on a land deal with the Botkins Investment Group, LLC (B.I.G.) This deal will bring a new spec building into the industrial park, creating future economic development opportunities, and providing space for business retention and development. Upon completion B.I.G. plans to lease the spec building, with potential for further development on the lot.

As always, economic development in a small community such as Botkins helps to retain and create jobs, has multiplicative effects on economic activity in other local businesses, and provides the Village with revenue to ensure continued service provision for our residents. Any questions about the site can be referred to Josh Meyer, President of B.I.G., at (937) 538-1075. Parties interested in relocating to Botkins should contact Village Administrator Randy Purdy to discuss available properties and incentives.