

ISSUE 37 — SPRING 2021



ProPlastics Joins the Shelby County Business Community

ProPlastics LLC is a process driven, custom plastic injection molding company that recently opened in Sidney. Their 11,250 sq. ft. facility is located on Fair Road. According to company president Dan McMahon, "Our focus is on molding, design assistance, and innovative solutions. We work with OEM's in a variety of industries that include automotive, recreational vehicle, home goods, medical, and industrial supplies."

McMahon noted that the partners at ProPlastics have a combined 18 years' experience in injection molding and each have deep roots in the industry.

Included in their equipment compliment is an injection molding press, robotics for automation, mill, and a variety of auxiliary and support equipment.

ProPlastics' current equipment configuration is just the beginning as plans call for the addition of ten presses and ten new employees over the next 12 months.

To learn more, visit www.proplasticsohio.com.



Jackson Center Receives National Award

COLUMBUS – American Municipal Power, Inc. congratulated Jackson Center Electric for receiving a first place Excellence in Safety Award during the American Public Power Association's 2021 Engineering & Operations Technical Conference held virtually, March 23-24.

"Utilities that receive an APPA Safety Award have demonstrated that they have made the health and safety of their employees a core value," said Jolene Thompson, AMP president/CEO and APPA chair of the



board. "Congratulations to the Jackson Center Electric team. Jackson Center should be very proud."

Recognized for safety practices (demonstrated by having the lowest safety incident rate within its group), determined by worker-hours of exposure, Jackson Center Electric was awarded first place in Group A (less than 15,000 worker-hours of exposure).

"We take safety of our employees and customers very seriously," said Bruce Metz, Jackson Center Village Administrator. "This is the fourth time in the last five years that Jackson Center has earned this safety recognition," added Metz.

For a full list of APPA members honored with an Excellence in Safety Award, visit www.publicpower.org.

Wilson Health to Reinvest in the Village of Botkins

When Dr. Allison Pepple joined Wilson Health Medical Group earlier this year, Wilson Health leaders knew it wouldn't take long for the family medicine physician and team to outgrow their current office space located at 111 East Lynn Street in Botkins.



With patient volumes continuing to increase, Wilson Health acquired a building within the Village of Botkins with plans to develop a new medical office building which will serve as the future home of Dr. Pepple and Botkins Family Practice

"Our intention is to partner with the local Botkins community and source area contractors to complete the work," said Klosterman. "Wilson Health's commitment to caring for the health care needs of the Botkins and surrounding area is a top priority. We look forward to investing in the community with this exciting project."

For more information or to contact Botkins Family Practice, call (937) 693-1541.

"Dr. Pepple is originally from the Wapakoneta area," said Mark Klosterman, President and CEO at Wilson Health. "When we were recruiting her to come back and practice medicine, it made sense for Dr. Pepple to join our Botkins location. It didn't take long for patients in northern Shelby and Auglaize counties to learn of her arrival and establish with her as their family physician."

TechCred Can Help Fund Employee Training

A new round of [Ohio TechCred](#) is open. This is the popular employer reimbursement program that pays you to upskill employees who earn one of up to 20,000 technology-focused credentials.

The new TechCred application period began April 1st and closes April 30th at 3:00 p.m.; however, future rounds are also anticipated.

TechCred gives employers the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. Employers who submit successful applications will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per credential (up to \$30,000 in total per round), when current or prospective

employees complete eligible technology-focused credentials.

Training programs must start on or after the date of the award and must be completed in less than 12 months. In this round, training providers are no longer eligible to obtain reimbursement for employees trained in-house. If you wish to utilize TechCred to upskill your employees, an external training provider must be used.

Edison State Community College and Upper Valley Career Center Adult Division are among the list of providers who are able to provide some credential opportunities.

Burke's Outlet Ribbon Cutting



Celebrating the opening of the new Sidney location, store manager Becky Miller joins Mayor Mike Barhorst in a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Burkes Outlet is located in the Walmart

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Top Ranked U.S. Micropolitan for Fifth Consecutive Year

In 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 the Sidney area has been named to the prestigious Top 100 Micropolitan list by Site Selection Magazine. The micropolitan area including Sidney and Shelby County moved up four spots from 15th to 11th in 2020.

The Sidney Micropolitan Area also ranked 24th in the POLICOM Economic Strength Rating. "While Site Selection looks at an annual snapshot of economic investment, the POLICOM ranking shows economic strength over the long haul," said Jim Hill, SSEP.

"While Ohio has a significant number of micropolitans in the POLICOM ranking, Sidney is the second highest Ohio community in the ranking," added Hill.

Site Selection Magazine'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.



The Office of Management and Budget has identified 551 Micropolitans in the U.S. A micropolitan is defined as an area adjacent to a metropolitan city with (a city) of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000, plus adjacent territory.

Build Your Workforce Pipeline via Ohio's NEW Manufacturing Mentorship Program

In August 2020 Ohio approved legislation allowing minors to work part-time in manufacturing, expanding early career opportunities for youth in our state. The *Manufacturing Mentorship Program* allows youth ages 16-17 to be employed part-time and begin careers in manufacturing.

Workforce Partnership's Board President, Mick Given, was instrumental in propelling the legislation for the benefit of Shelby County and the entire state. Under the new state rules, which the Ohio Manufacturers' Association (OMA) strongly supports, 16 and 17 year-old students can engage much earlier in many hands-on manufacturing careers. Prior to this provision, students under the age 18 were required to be a part of a career/technical program, such as the Upper Valley Career Center, to work in the manufacturing sector.

What does this mean for Shelby County? This new provision opens the door for local manufacturers to employ more students for summer and part-time employment. The *Manufacturing Mentorship Program* allows industry to showcase their many viable careers and strengthen their workforce development pipeline and opens the door for students who are interested in manufacturing, but don't want to leave their "home" school to enroll in a career center program. The program identifies the role of mentors and additional requirements for successful execution.

How do you get started? Workforce Partnership is actively engaged with all ten school districts in Shelby County, which allows us to identify students from throughout the county interested and suited for manufacturing jobs. As students turn 16, they now have the opportunity to work towards a career, not just a paycheck. The opportunities can include summer work experience, part-time jobs during the school year, and student internships.

"Workforce Partnership is very EXCITED at the potential of this program for our employers and emerging workforce," said Deb McDermott, WP Director. "This program is a KEY to growing the workforce pipeline in Shelby County." To learn more about the program, visit the INDUSTRY page on our website:

www.workforcepartner.com or contact Deb McDermott at deb@workforcepartner.com.



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

2021 Power Lunch

On March 5, 2021, approximately 30 high school seniors, from seven Sidney/Shelby County school districts, had the unique opportunity to network with local employers and education organizations. The Power Lunch, held this year at The Palazzo in Botkins, is an annual event coordinated by Workforce Partnership of Shelby County and co-sponsored by Hometown Opportunity.

Marking the 3rd year for the event, there were 15 local companies and 2 adult training/education organizations who gathered to meet with seniors intending to directly enter the workforce upon graduation. The meetings

showcased local companies and their employment opportunities, as well as practical career guidance.

The students in attendance received advice on resume preparation and the interview process, plus many had their first experience with networking. The company representatives were educational, enthusiastic, and encouraging. These discussions will lead into job shadowing activity, interviews, and --the end goal-- employment.

Upon asking the students to evaluate the event, one student stated that the best advice he received from one HR representative was, "Anyone here would hire you. And honestly, your potential is higher than you see".

To learn more about Workforce Partnership and our mission in Shelby County, visit www.workforcepartner.com.



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