

ISSUE 23 — SUMMER 2017

# SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles

## Inside This Issue



**Schwan's Buys MaMa Rosa's** and will expand their pizza business...

**PAGE 2**



**"Titans of Industry" Exhibit** at Ross Historical Center

**PAGE 2 & 3**



**Jackson Center Schools Complete Renovations**

Open House Scheduled

**PAGE 4**

## Emerson Climate Technologies Embarks on Major Expansion

Emerson Climate Technologies broke ground on July 13th for a multi-million dollar renovation and expansion of labs and offices in its one-million-square-foot facility in Sidney. The project is expected to require \$100 million in investments during the next four years.



"Through our Copeland brand, we have a history in this area that stretches back eight decades, as well as 1,700 employees at the Sidney location who call Ohio's Miami Valley region home," said Brent Schroeder, group president of heating and air conditioning for Emerson's Commercial and Residential Solutions business.

The first phase of construction will include building a two-story office addition onto the current facility and converting existing space to new and expanded engineering laboratories which will be used to conduct advanced performance and refrigerant testing with its compressors and related products.

The expansion and renovation in Sidney comes one year after Emerson opened its Helix Innovation Center on the University of Dayton campus. The Helix Innovation Center is an industry-first effort funded by Emerson to spur research, collaboration and education across the heating and

cooling manufacturing industries (also known as the HVACR industry).

"Emerson is committed to growing our global leadership position in the heating and cooling industry. To do that we need best-in-class facilities that provide our current employees a cutting-edge space to continue their critical work and that help us attract the next generation of engineers and scientists," said Bob Sharp, executive president for Emerson's Commercial and Residential Solutions business.

The project was contingent upon state and local incentives. Emerson worked with the Port Authority, the Dayton Development Coalition, JobsOhio, City of Sidney and the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership on the project.

# Schwan's Buys MaMa Rosa's

Schwan's Company, a leading U.S. frozen-food business, announced the purchase of MaMa Rosa's Pizza LLC from HGGC has been finalized. The terms of the sale, which was finalized June 14, were not disclosed.

Founded in 1979, MaMa Rosa's manufactures foods for the food-service industry and in retail stores under the MaMa Rosa's and Fight'n Tomato Pizza Co. pizza brands.



MaMa Rosa's employs approximately 250 people and operates a 160,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Sidney, Ohio.

"We are extremely excited to have MaMa Rosa's join the Schwan's family of businesses based on their reputation in our industry for delivering great quality and service," said CEO Dimitrios Smyrniotis. "This acquisition will be mutually beneficial. For Schwan's, this acquisition demonstrates our commitment to the U.S. pizza market and gives us an opportunity to immediately expand our pizza business. MaMa Rosa's will become part of a world class team that makes high-quality frozen foods for food-service, home delivery and retail outlets."

"Schwan's is a well-established company within the U.S. frozen foods market. We feel this sale represents an extremely positive business decision that will take MaMa Rosa's Pizza to the next level in terms of growth and distribution," said Greg Benson, co-founder and managing director at HGGC.

MaMa Rosa's will now operate as a Schwan's subsidiary called Schwan's MaMa Rosa's, LLC. "We are excited about this acquisition and welcome the MaMa Rosa's team to Schwan's. Together we will work to exceed the expectations of our customers and strengthen our position in the U.S. frozen-pizza market," said Smyrniotis.

Established in 1952, Schwan's Company's subsidiaries sell foods through its retail, food-service and home delivery channels. In the pizza category, its major U.S. retail brands include Red Baron, Freschetta and Tony's pizzas. The company's subsidiaries also serve as a leading provider of pizza to food-service outlets such as schools, convenience stores, colleges and universities.

Based in Minnesota, Schwan's Company is a privately held business that also manufactures and markets quality foods such as Bon Appétit pizza, Mrs. Smith's and Edwards desserts, Pagoda snacks and Schwan's fine frozen foods. To learn more about Schwan's, visit [schwanscompany.com](http://schwanscompany.com).

## Shelby County Historical Society's "Titans of Industry"

### Exhibit—Open Now Until October 2017

During the month of May, the Ross Historical Center was visited daily by students of Mr. Brett Bickel's history classes. Students learned about the "Titans" behind Shelby County's many thriving industries and the characteristics that they each shared which allowed them to build the rich industrial base that we still enjoy today. Each Titan was able to create a work environment that inspired their employees to create quality products that could compete in the world market.

Their passions were not limited to their businesses; rather, they used their resources to build a community that would attract other businesses to Shelby County to make it a wonderful place for their employees to raise their families. These two characteristics were enhanced by the innovative spirits shown in their ability to adapt to change, the outcome of which is an inspiring story to all. Visitors to the Ross Historical Center will be able to follow the progression of a butter churn company to a washing machine company, to see the creation of a machine tool empire, and to learn about the phenomenal adaptation in an aluminum can that changed the way an entire industry packaged its product.



American Chemical Company

Visitors can meet men like Philip Smith, who was described by some as solid, stable, and reliable, and by others as the incarnation of hope. He lined every cloud with a silver lining, because his resilience conquered the many adversities that would have crushed most other men. He overcame—with sheer will and determination—financial setbacks, depressed economies, and conditions others considered failure. Philip Smith's name today survives on several store fronts in downtown Sidney as evidence of his struggles and successes.

# Chamber Expo 2017 OPEN to the PUBLIC

3:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Sponsored By:



Thursday,  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2017



**Business Showcase  
and Job Fair**

**at Sidney  
Middle School**  
980 Fair Rd.  
Sidney, OH  
(One mile east of  
I-75 at exit 90)



Prima Washing Machine Display  
at the Ross Historical Center,

Continued from Page 2

Smith's story sounds like that of many of the Titans who followed: I. H. Thedieck, who founded Monarch Machine and Tool Company, and had to meet early payrolls with personal loans; Frank Gleason Sr., who was one of the four horsemen, who, in the midst of the Great Depression, brought Copeland Corporation (now known as Emerson Climate Technologies) to Sidney; Ralph Stolle who came to Sidney to help save the Prima Washing Machine Company and stayed to found Stolle Corporation; Thomas Francis, founder of Francis Manufacturing, and Robert and John Sargeant who have been a part of 10 thriving companies in the area.

All of these men shared one more characteristic: they cared about the men and women who worked at their companies. Many of them could walk on the floor and call each employee by name. The outcome of these respectful, caring relationships allowed these companies to overcome adversity of all kinds over the years.

If you would like to learn more about the "Titans of Industry," please stop at the Ross Historical Center, Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., or visit on Saturday from 9 am till noon.

## Firehouse Subs Slated to Open Fall 2017

Firehouse Subs® is a fast casual restaurant chain with a passion for hearty and flavorful food, heartfelt service and public safety. Founded in 1994 by brothers and former firefighters Chris and Robin Sorensen, Firehouse Subs is a brand built on decades of fire and police service, steaming hot subs piled higher with the highest quality meats and cheese and its commitment to saving lives through the establishment of the non-profit Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation®.

"I've been a fan of Firehouse Subs® ever since I was introduced to the brand while on vacation several years ago in Tennessee," stated local franchise owner Tom Martin. "The quality of the product, the subs' flavorful heartiness and the founders' authentic heritage as former firefighters all attracted me to the brand. Eventually, my wife and I decided to join the Firehouse Subs® family as franchise operators and open our first restaurant in our hometown of Sidney, Ohio, which is slated to open in fall 2017 in a portion of the former Aaron's Appliance store in the Kroger Plaza on Michigan Street."

Firehouse Subs® is well known for its delicious food, but also its commitment to serving the local community and first

responders through the non-profit Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation®. Since its inception in 2005, the Foundation has donated more than \$25 million to public safety organizations in 46 states, Puerto Rico and Canada. Here in Ohio, the Foundation has given more than \$1.2 million to support the purchase of life-saving equipment for first responders across the state. "We're excited to bring that same support to our first responder community in Sidney," declared Martin.



FOUNDED BY FIREMEN

<p><b>SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS</b></p>	 <p><b>Re/Max One</b> 216 East Poplar St. Sidney, Ohio 45365 (937) 497-7961 www.gaysmith.com</p>	 <p>450 Folkert Avenue Sidney, Ohio 45365 937-492-6010 www.hiexpress.com/sidneyoh</p>
<p>Telephone HD Cable TV High Speed Internet Wireless Internet Video Productions</p>  <p><b>BUSINESS &amp; RESIDENTIAL</b> Local Customer Support &amp; Sales Serving Northwest Ohio www.nktelco.net 1-888-NKTELCO 937-658-6000</p>	 <p><b>Hampton Inn Sidney</b> 1600 Hampton Court, Sidney, Ohio, 45365 <b>937-498-8888</b></p>	 <p><b>Area Wireless Superstore</b> 624 N Vandemark Rd Hours: M-F 9-6 and Sat. 10-2 <b>Area Wireless</b> 2262 Michigan St. Hours: M-F 10-8 and Sat. 10-6 www.AreaWirelessInc.com Facebook: Area Wireless Superstore</p>

## Inside This Issue

- Emerson Climate Technologies Embarks on Major Expansion
- Schwan's Buys Mama Rosa's
- Shelby County Historical Society's "Titans of Industry" Exhibit Open Until October 2017
- Jackson Center Schools Renovations Complete
- Firehouse Subs Slated to Open Fall 2017

### Thank you to our contributors:

*Matilda Philpot of the Shelby Co. Historical Society; SSEP; Kari Egbert, City of Sidney; Julie Ehemann, The County of Shelby; 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 **Mike Dodds** at [mdodds@choosesidneyshelby.com](mailto:mdodds@choosesidneyshelby.com)*

## Jackson Center Schools Renovations Complete

It has been almost two years since Jackson Center Schools embarked on transitioning from its 1928, 1954 and part of the 1965 buildings to a new building that will serve as the academic wing for pre-school through 6th grade students and also serve as the commons area for the entire district. Even before the new building is complete, renovation to the remaining 1965 portion of the building as well as the 1981 and 2003 additions will take place as well as improvements to the grounds around the buildings. Included are 18 new academic classrooms (science labs/vo-ag included), plus a new gym, cafeteria, kitchen, media center. The building will then encompass 60,000 square feet. The overall goal of the new building and renovation work is to create an environment where kids want to learn and grow. At the same time, the new plans will honor the past and tell the story of why Jackson Center is such a unique place to grow up.

The School District encompasses 49 square miles of land surrounding the village of Jackson Center. It is located mainly in Shelby County, but does include portions of Auglaize and Logan Counties. The 38 teachers and staff serve 550+ students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. The school has a very long and proud tradition of academic excellence as well as a progressive outlook on the future of education.



Jackson Center Schools is working in conjunction with the local village government, the business community

and the agricultural base to create unique opportunities for learning inside the building and out. The school will have collaboration tables and charging stations throughout the building as well as areas specifically designated for public speaking and presentations by students. It will also have outdoor learning areas which include outdoor classrooms, weather stations, and growing areas including a pond.

The school will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, August 27th at 1:00 pm. More information can be found at [www.jackson-center.k12.oh](http://www.jackson-center.k12.oh)