

ISSUE 34 — SUMMER

SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles

Sidney-Shelby Named in Prestigious Top 100 Micropolitan List

In 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 the Sidney area has been named to the prestigious Top 100 Micropolitan list by Site Selection Magazine. Sidney moved up to four spots from 19th to 15th in 2019.



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.

"Projects have to be a new or expanded facility of at least 20,000 sq. ft., create at least 20 new jobs or require at least a \$1 million investment to qualify," said Jim Hill, executive director of the Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership.

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.

Growth Continues at Botkins Industrial Park

The Botkins Industrial Park is seeing continued growth and development. Fertilizer Dealer Supply is in the midst of a \$2 million construction project, which led to a new home for them in Botkins. The new site is spread over 9.5 acres which will allow them to continue to expand in the community. The expansion is expected to not only retain jobs, but also create new positions moving forward.

Buckeye Electrical Products is also in the process of constructing a half million-dollar expansion project at the Industrial Park. Set on newly acquired land adjacent to their existing site, the expansion will allow Buckeye to continue to grow and expand a burgeoning market base, in addition to adding jobs in the community.

The Botkins Investment Group II, has completed construction of their second spec building at the Industrial Park. They now have a 30,000 sq. ft. manufacturing building available for lease or purchase. If interested, contact Josh Meyer at (937)-538-1075.

The combined growth of Fertilizer Dealer Supply and Buckeye Electrical Products has prompted the Village to begin extending Commerce Drive an additional 450 feet.

"Construction projects like these have the ability to buoy the local economy with an influx of people, jobs, and economic activity," said Randy Purdy, Village Administrator. "Botkins is blessed to have weathered the economic storm as of late, thanks to the tremendous growth that has occurred in our community and is continuing to occur in our residential and industrial sectors," added Purdy.



NKTELCO's Advanced Fiber Network in Your Community—"Priceless"



NKTELCO has spent the last ten years planning, investing and building a state of the art fiber to the network in Sidney and the surrounding communities.

Through NK Telco's efforts, they have helped these communities meet their

demand for high speed Internet and all the applications that come with it.

The communities of New Knoxville, New Bremen, Minster, Ft. Loramie, Sidney, Anna, Botkins, Maria Stein, Chickasaw, Russia and Jackson Center received National Recognition as a Smart Rural Community due to planning and investment by the NKTELCO network.

This investment provides more bandwidth for streaming video, facetime connections with your families, college online classes, and instant imaging for healthcare. With many businesses moving information and applications to the large cloud service providers, it provides larger pipes to move data quickly and more reliably in both upload and download applications that are vital for daily operations.

As for residential customers, fiber means faster speeds, more security, and increased property values. In a recent

study, researchers at the University of Colorado and Carnegie Mellon University studied about half a million home sales and found that access to fiber internet added 3.1% to the value of a home. The Fiber To The Home (FTTH) Council found that homes sold for 7% more if they had access to 1 gigabit broadband.

NKTELCO has been honored with the Smart Rural CommunitySM Showcase award by NTCA—the Rural Broadband Association, which cited NKTELCO's advanced communications services and collaboration with local leaders in agriculture, manufacturing, health care, public safety or education as keys to its success.

For more information, visit www.nktelco.com



Office Renovation Completed

After months of renovation work, our second floor office is open again at 101 S. Ohio Ave. "We want to thank all the awesome local contractors who worked diligently to complete the building and office improvements," said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director

In late 2018, Fifth Third Bank closed the downtown Sidney Branch, creating an uncertain future for our office suite. Fortunately, Sidney Hometown Investments, a group of local investors, purchased the building at 101 S. Ohio and began the process of developing a reuse plan.

In January of this year, Ferguson Construction began renovation and expansion work for Tavolo Modern Italian restaurant. While the majority of the work was completed downstairs, second story improvements included a new HVAC system, electrical upgrades, a sprinkler system and significant upgrades to the entry, building exterior and common areas.

"In addition to the work led by Ferguson and all their subcontractors, SSEP carried out a few tenant improvements, including actions to free up about 600 s.f. of space that is currently available for sublease," said Hill. "I want to thank all the local contractors who worked on the second floor, making it a much more modern and efficient office. Those include American Architectural Glass, Ask Amy Home Furnishings, DP&L Energy Program, Ferguson Construction, Fultz Flooring, Lochard Heating &

Cooling, Low Voltage Solutions, NK Telco, Sollmann Electric, and Waters Services & Painting,

An open house for the entire building is being planned for July or August.

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Tooling Technology Facility Expansion

Tooling Technology LLC in Fort Loramie is a custom manufacturer of tooling and automated equipment solutions serving the automotive, aerospace, bus and heavy truck, RV, appliance and consumer and industrial products markets. Tooling Technology is a division of Tooling Tech Group, the largest tooling provider in the United States with 650+ employees, 13 modern facilities and over 1 million square feet of manufacturing space across four states.

Expanding business opportunities have necessitated Tooling Technology's decision to add approximately 10,000 square feet to their existing facility that will house 2 new - 5 axis CNC milling machines plus added floor space for anticipated growth. Says Tooling Technology President Gary Poeppelman, "This addition will increase our capacities and capabilities to better serve our existing clients, expand our customer base and increase our productivity."



Shelby County Earns National Achievement Award

WASHINGTON – The Shelby County STAR House has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for residents.



NACo recognized the STAR House application titled "STAR House Recovery- Working to Create New Neighbors" in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety noting the work being done at the STAR House is yielding positive results.



Commissioner Julie Ehemann stated, "Several agencies collaborated to make the STAR House a reality. This is just one more example of how Shelby County entities work together to create positive change for our community."

NACo President Mary Ann Borgeson said, "We are seeing firsthand now more than ever that counties work tirelessly to support our residents. This year's Achievement Award-winning programs showcase how counties build healthy, safe and vibrant communities across America."

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice and public safety, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

Quality CNC Manufacturing in Anna

After seeing a need for high-quality CNC products, Troy Kies founded Diversified Product Solutions (DPS) in 2017 with a C.R. Onsrud 145-M12 CNC router. As the company grew to include nationwide clients, Troy added Kyle Doak to his staff as Head of Operations.

Located at 12999 C. R. 25A in Anna, DPS utilizes cutting-edge software and solid carbide marathon coated bits to cut wood and plastic material quickly and precisely. With their 61"x145" cutting table, DPS is able to handle projects, both large and small, for their clients. Capabilities include using additional materials such as aluminum and composites. DPS currently handles projects for playground equipment suppliers and medical device manufacturers. With the threat of COVID-19, DPS was able to pivot with the manufacturing of PPE including their own line of sneeze guards and hand sanitizer stations.

Kyle noted, "We are proud to service businesses needing high-quality products, manufactured on a consistent basis. We hope to be a preferred local source for quality CNC manufacturing. As our own line of PPE products has become popular, we look forward to helping our fellow local businesses stay open and operating at full capacity."



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Thank you to our contributors:

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Workforce Partnership Looks Ahead to 2020-2021



In August 2020, Workforce Partnership will begin its seventh year of programming. The collaboration and support that has occurred through this industry-led initiative is key to the growth and impact being experienced.

Last summer, the Westfield Legacy of Caring Program awarded WP a grant that was focused on improving the Mobile Career Lab to be more hands-on accessible. A huge THANK YOU goes to Ruese Insurance for nominating us for the grant.

Work stations and multipurpose desktops were installed so students can enter and explore careers through technology and learning activities. It has moved from being a "classroom" to being a "classroom/learning lab".

In collaboration with the United Way, a Career Coach is being added to the staff. This individual will serve as a liaison between our industry Partners and high school counselors to mentor high school seniors whose graduation plan is to directly enter the workforce. There will be a focus on assessing students' preparedness for employment, as well as evaluating each student's interests

and aptitudes to create the ideal long-term career plan.

As a result of the ODE "Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Grant", a collaborative team comprised of Sidney City Schools, MRESC, Workforce Partnership, and Upper Valley Career Center has been busy preparing two new career tech programs at Sidney High School that create career pathways in manufacturing and construction. Both classroom and lab instruction will be offered. The Workforce Academy course at Sidney Middle School will continue to serve all seventh and eighth graders, with a focus on soft skills, and exploration of local companies and careers.



Mobile Career Lab After Renovations

To-date approximately 21,000 touchpoints with Shelby County students have occurred through classroom instruction, career speakers, Career Exploration Academy, and other events. At Sidney Middle School, 7th and 8th graders complete the Workforce Academy course and 8th graders at Fort Loramie Middle School complete "Career Connections". Through collaboration with WP, focused workforce development programs are growing in the school districts and we continue to serve every public and private school district in Shelby County.