

ISSUE 29 — WINTER 2019

SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles



Shelby County will be celebrating its Bicentennial in 2019 followed by the City of Sidney's Bicentennial in 2020. Events will officially kick-off on April 1, 2019 with the remembrance of the County Commissioner's first meeting. Other events will feature special exhibits, lectures, concerts, and even an attempt to break a world record. Details can be found on the Visitor's Bureau web site (VisitShelbyCounty.com/about-bicentennial) and on Facebook at Shelby County Ohio Bicentennial Celebration.

Bicentennial Kickoff

April 1, 12:00 to 3:00
County Courthouse

Antique Quilt Exhibit

April 27, 10:00 to 6:00
Hardin United Methodist

Native American Artifact Show

April 28, 1:00 to 4:00
Fort Loramie School

All festivities will celebrate the rich history of Sidney and Shelby County.

Fort Loramie Welcomes St. Marys Iron Works

St. Marys Iron Works, a manufacturer of returnable shipping racks, recently purchased the 56,710 square foot former



Marwill manufacturing facility in Fort Loramie. St. Marys Iron Works focuses on the automotive and trucking industries.

The company currently employs 19 people at a leased facility in St. Marys. Company owners, Dan and Bill Gelhause, anticipate adding employees at the Ft. Loramie facility after they take occupancy in spring 2019. The brothers started the business in July 2016 after years of performing machining work for a rack builder.

The purchase was facilitated by Tim Echemann of Industrial Property Brokers.

2019 Expansion at Choice One Engineering

In many ways, 2018 was a year of growth for Choice One Engineering. Founded in 1994, Choice One has grown from a small company to having three locations including Sidney, Loveland, and Portland, Indiana.

Over the course of the past year, Choice One hired four new employees, bringing the companywide total to 44. Three engineers achieved their professional licenses, bringing the company's total to 16 Professional Engineers and three Professional Surveyors. 2018 also brought a growth in services at Choice One, as Landscape Architecture was added to Choice One's existing services of civil engineering and surveying.

"We have worked hard at Choice One to provide our employees with a great



work environment," said President Matt Hoying, "but we've also worked hard together to create a culture of purpose, enjoyment, and helpfulness that will impact not just our clients, but our families and communities as well."

In 2019, Choice One plans to grow its physical presence in Sidney by adding on to their facility located on Hoewisher Road. The current building will almost double in size to 7,100 square feet allowing for the anticipated hiring of four more employees at the Sidney location. Groundbreaking is expected in March with completion planned for October of 2019.

Workforce Partnership of Shelby County: 1st Semester Update

September 2018 marked the start of year five of the Workforce Partnership (WP) initiative. The cooperation and teamwork



being developed between industry and education has been tremendous and beneficial for all involved. Workforce Partnership's emphasis continues to focus on soft skills development and exploration of Shelby County careers. The programming includes a variety of activities, all aimed at connecting the emerging workforce to local careers, while raising awareness of the various pathways that can help them be successful.

- Fairlawn Schools renovated their library, now known as "The Workforce Hangar," to include state-of-the-art furniture and technology and focus on career topics. WP contributed seed money towards the project, with support from the UVCC and Shelby County 4H. The first-year classroom focus is eighth grade students. Their long-term plan is to grow the workforce courses throughout the district.



- The Career-a-Month activity continues for the second year. Industry leaders come to the classroom to interact with the students and share information about their company and the local career opportunities available. During the first semester, approximately 2,200 touchpoints occurred.



- The Career Exploration Academy, held annually, brought 40 business partners together with over 1,000 students, to provide hands-on learning opportunities. Whether building a bench, practicing with an x-ray machine, or sitting in the Acura NSX...students were offered a fun, yet effective way to learn about Shelby County careers.
- In October, WP/Shelby County collaborated with Auglaize, Darke, and Mercer counties to organize the Inspire Career Concert, which attracted 1,000 high school seniors. Over 100 companies from the region participated in a career expo. The day also included two motivational speakers to inspire students to step outside of their comfort zone and embrace the career opportunities around them.



- In November, the first Workforce Partnership Power Lunch was held. This event connected high school seniors with our partners and offered a great education and networking opportunity. The event was held at Amos Memorial Library, with 22 students and 18 companies participating. The feedback from the students was excellent!



Two Local Officials Elected to Statewide Posts

Shelby County Commissioner Julie Ehemann and Sidney Mayor Mike Barhorst both are presiding over statewide associations this year. Ehemann is currently serving as president of the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and Barhorst is serving as president of the Ohio Municipal League (OML).



Ehemann, a CCAO board member since 2014, was elected president of the CCAO Board of Directors on Dec. 10 by her peers at their annual Winter Conference in Columbus, Ohio. She will be working with the association's leadership to strengthen the partnership

between state and county government. "County challenges have increased significantly. Collaboration and cooperation between the two government entities must exist to

strengthen counties for the well-being of Ohioans," said Ehemann.



Likewise, Mayor Barhorst has actively participated in the Ohio Municipal League for several years. OML is a state-wide association and serves the interests of Ohio's municipal governments, including 247 cities and 686 villages. Barhorst stated, "Our efforts

this year will focus on improving our relationship with the General Assembly and the administration, job creation, public safety and health, investing in infrastructure, and advancing good government." They will encourage and promote greater cooperation and funding from the state to fight crime and address the opioid epidemic, as well as partner in local infrastructure initiatives.

Small Business Development Center at Edison

Edison State Community College's Center for Workforce Development and the Miami Valley Small Business Development Center (SBDC)



have formed a partnership to provide businesses and start-up businesses in Shelby, Miami, Preble and Darke counties with tools, resources and **no-cost** business advising. This collaboration will enable small businesses to conveniently connect to services offered by the SBDC at Edison State's four campuses, located in Piqua, Troy, Greenville and Eaton, and will also provide connections between the region's businesses and Edison State's workforce

resources, including apprenticeship programs and employer resources. The SBDC is funded largely by the SBA and works with businesses



in all phases of the business cycle, from development to maturity. Assistance is provided in such areas as cash flow and financial projections, employee recruitment and management, business planning, export readiness and markets, and much more. These services are available to businesses at no cost and are always confidential.

To set up an appointment with the SBDC, call 937-281-0118.

Anna Expands Water and Sewer Infrastructure

The Village of Anna has confirmed it will be extending water and sanitary sewer lines to the east side of I-75; services are expected to be available in 2019. Poggemeyer Design Group was selected to provide project

engineering and planning for future industrial and/or commercial growth. Members of the Village Council are excited to see what this project will bring to the community.

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Thank you to our contributors:

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

Economic Development Visioning



Development leaders will be meeting soon to identify ways to increase availability and reduce the costs of residential subdivision development.

A team has been assembled to identify redevelopment tools, remove regulatory barriers and launch more amenities throughout Shelby County.

A Marketing Team has also been assembled to improve overall community perceptions, launch a viable branding strategy and enhance

our marketing and social media efforts.

"Since day one, community leaders have been willing to step up and cast a clear vision for Sidney and Shelby County's economic future," said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. "There are quite a few moving parts right now, but we are gaining momentum," added Hill.

"I'm excited that all teams have been meeting frequently to coordinate several key actions. We are all working together in pursuit of a brighter future for Sidney-Shelby County and you can feel the positive synergy. We are ***Moving Forward!***" said Hill.

Sidney Shelby Economic Partnership (SSEP) Board members along with city, county, and community leaders met for a half day economic visioning session on September 6. After prioritization of the suggested areas of focus and importance, teams were formed to further identify solutions to:

- 1) improve available housing,
- 2) enhance cooperation and partnerships, and
- 3) better market and brand the community.

A second visioning session was held on Nov. 14 to review additional data and further cultivate an action plan to expand housing availability throughout Shelby County.