

shelby County SIZZLES

— A Publication of the Sidney–Shelby Economic Partnership —

Francis Manufacturing Expands in Russia

Francis Manufacturing is expanding the company's manufacturing facility in Russia to accommodate growth. The 42,000 s.f. addition will bring the total square footage to 207,000 s.f., including new molding, furnaces and warehousing.

"We are a 'job-shop' serving customers all across the U.S.," said Levi Francis of Francis Manufacturing. "Our employees hand-pour 80,000 pounds of aluminum each week and serve local manufacturers like Superior Aluminum, Crown Corporation and Airstream," added Levi. "Business is good and the phone just keeps ringing, so

this expansion will allow us to better serve our customers."



The company currently employs 170 people and is likely to add 7-10 additional employees with the expansion. H. A. Dorsten of Minster is the general contractor on the project.

Francis Manufacturing Company is a family owned and operated aluminum

sand foundry located in Russia, Ohio. Established in 1946 by Thomas V. Francis, they continue to produce castings for a very wide range of customers and industries across the United States.

Michigan Metal Coatings to Locate in Sidney

Michigan Metal Coatings is planning a 300,000 square foot location in Sidney at 930-990 Vandemark Road. As a part of the project, the company will invest \$20 million in new equipment, creating 60 full-time positions and generating \$3.57 million in new annual payroll. The company is expected to begin installing equipment and hiring in 2024.

The main driver of the project is to offer better services to existing customers, along with continued growth and expansion of the organization, and new customer acquisition based on technology and proximity. Michigan Metal Coatings, headquartered in Port

Huron, Michigan is currently comprised of two facilities, totaling 150,000 square feet operated by 80 employees. MC SYSTEMS, its, parent company, is located in Nagoya, Japan.

Michigan Metal Coatings is a leader in the application of chromium free, corrosion-resistant coating systems for Tier 1 automotive customers and are an accredited applicator of the Geomet and Doerken systems. They supply the automotive, construction, marine, trucking, and appliance industries. We welcome MMC to Sidney and Shelby County!



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Upgrade to Fort Loramie WWTP

After almost five years of planning and construction, a major upgrade to the Fort Loramie Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing completion with work being done by Peterson Construction. The treatment plant was first constructed in 1990 and had reached the end of its useful life.

The \$11.8 million joint project with the Village of Fort Loramie received funding support with loans and grants from the Ohio Department of Development and USDA's Office of Rural Development. This funding assistance will allow for continued affordable user sewer rates.

The facility currently treats waste from Fort Loramie Lake residents, the Village of Fort Loramie, the Village of Kettlersville, and areas of Newport and McCartyville serving approximately 4,000 people. The new design increased the capacity of the plant from 400,000 gallons per day to accommodate the current average of 600,000 gallons per day, and can withstand peak flows of up to 3 million gallons per day.

Improvements will allow the County to be compliant with Ohio EPA standards pertaining especially to phosphorus and ammonia, and increases the capacity to handle wastewater solids. These design upgrades will allow for planned continued business growth and expansion to the service areas for up to the next 20 years.

Wilson Health Expands Pediatric Services

[Wilson Health](#) has affiliated with Dayton Children's Hospital to bring additional resources and care to pediatric and neonatal patients in this area.

"This allows pediatric patients an expanded level of expertise and resources offered by Dayton Children's Hospital right here in Shelby County and surrounding communities," Mark Klosterman, president and CEO of Wilson Health said. "With Dayton Children's joining forces with our pediatric team, we will build upon the tremendous care already provided by our current providers."

As part of the first phase, Dr. Michael Kessel, a Dayton Children's Hospital pediatrician, joined the Wilson Health Pediatrics group. Specialized neonatal care for newborns delivered at the Copeland Family Birth Center is also in place.

For more information, visit www.wilsonhealth.org.



HOUSING—THE MILLS SIDNEY

A new 216 unit apartment complex is set to bring new housing offerings to Sidney and Shelby County. This project highlights the pivotal role of housing in fostering economic development.

Developers Crawford Hoying and JBM Development of Dublin, OH plan to invest \$46 million to build the 10-building, 216-unit complex at 2150 Echo Dr. in Sidney. The developer's plan includes a clubhouse and pool.

"The Mills is a testament to our commitment to building a prosperous, sustainable community. The addition of 215 new contemporary housing units will help attract new residents, including young professionals and families," said City Manager Andrew Bowsher.

Anniversary Event Held



Approximately 150 community leaders gathered at the Sidney Historic Theatre on Aug. 23rd to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of SSEP and the 10th Anniversary of the Workforce Partnership.

Highlights of the evening included remarks by President Mick Given, a 10-minute history video, comments by SSEP Vice President Julie Ehemann, a keynote address from ODOD Director Lydia Mihalik, and brief comments by Workforce Executive Director Deb McDermott and SSEP Executive Director Jim Hill.

Mick Given welcomed those attending and highlighted how Shelby County has built a strong economy by changing with the times. He also recognized that community partnership has been a key to long-term success.



Commissioner Julie Ehemann greets Director Mihalik.

After providing a list of recent budget priorities related to economic development in Ohio, Lydia Mihalik presented a commendation from Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted, recognizing SSEP's 40 Year Anniversary.



Director Mihalik presents SSEP with a commendation from Gov. DeWine.

Deb McDermott spoke about the launch of the Workforce Partnership and progress over the past 10 years. She highlighted how events like the Annual Career Academy, Power Luncheon and Skilled Trades Ninja Challenge have successfully linked Shelby County students to good career opportunities in Shelby County. She also introduced staff and added how the Career Coach and Program Coordinator positions have expanded the organization's reach.

Jim Hill highlighted 40-year investment statistics, stating that major project investment has resulted in more than \$4 billion of industrial and commercial investment and created approximately 19,000 new jobs. Hill added that it is rewarding to see the Sidney-Shelby Micropolitan Area ranked #3 the same year as the historic 40-year anniversary.



Approximately 150 attended the anniversary event at the Sidney Historic Theatre.

You can view the Innovation and Partnership Video at: <https://youtu.be/SXQY6tLJCno>. Congratulations to both organizations and thank you to all who have contributed to their success!



Workforce Partnership Exec. Director Deb McDermott highlights the 10-year history.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:



Fort Loramie Receives Trail Town Designation



Ann Stidd and Bobby Bender of The Fort Loramie Association

The Buckeye Trail Association recently welcomed Fort Loramie as the 20th Trail Town.

The village of Fort Loramie is an original canal town along the Miami & Erie Canal. It was first established as a trading post by a French-Canadian fur trader Pierre-Louis de Lorimier (Peter Loramie). The indigenous Shawnee people used the post for attacks against the European settlers during the Revolutionary War. The post was burnt to the ground and abandoned in 1782, remaining vacant until 1795. After the victory of the Battle of Fallen Timbers, General "Mad" Anthony Wayne ordered a fort built at the site. The fort stood on the portage

between St Mary's River and Loramie Creek, a half mile north of the present town.

The canal opened in 1841, bringing finished goods to the area, and taking farm and wood products back to the cities. In the early 1900's the canal system had diminished, so the canal system was cleaned up and turned into a community park.

An important feature remaining from the canal days is Lake Loramie, the feeder lake manually constructed to keep the canal filled with water. It is now a state park and a haven for fishing, boating, camping, and vacationers. Congratulations to Ft. Loramie!



New Spec. Building available in Ft. Loramie

The 24,000 s.f. spec industrial building at 1000 Tower Drive in the Ft. Loramie Industrial Park is available for purchase or lease.

The building offers 2 dock doors, 24' ceilings, 2 drive-in doors and 800 amp 3-phase power. In addition, it is located on 3.4 acres and has the potential to be divided. Office space can be built to suit.

The Village of Ft. Loramie has worked closely with the developer and a variety of business



incentives are available for qualifying projects.

"It is great to see the Ft. Loramie Industrial Park growing and this project should lead to a new or expanded company in Shelby County," said SSEP's Jim Hill.

For additional information on the building, contact Todd Cochran at Colliers International, 937-723-2913 or email todd.cochran@colliers.com

NKTelco Launches Innovation Fund

NKTelco, in partnership with their parent company, Schurz Communications, is proud to announce the launch of the NKTelco Innovation Fund. This Fund will provide investment dollars to local entrepreneurs, startup, and growth companies to support, sustain and grow businesses in and around the NKTelco network footprint in western Ohio.

The Fund will provide \$100,000 per year of local investment for five years for a total of \$500,000, that is to be used for investments in flexible structures allocated across a mix of startups and more established growth companies.

An Advisory Committee is being led by NKTelco and Schurz and includes local business leaders in and around the NKTelco network. The Committee will review applications, determine if they are a fit for the fund, and make the investments.

The Advisory Committee will recommend investments in attractive startup and growth businesses with investment criteria based on viability, potential, growth and return characteristics that would create jobs in western Ohio and benefit the most from local expertise and the NKTelco infrastructure.

Follow this link for more information on the fund criteria, <https://www.nktelco.com/nktelco-innovation-fund/>. If you would like to get in touch about potential investment consideration by the Advisory Committee, please reach out to Chris Dautel, cdautel@schurz.com, or Preston Meyer, pmeyer@nktelco.com.



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Career Exploration Academy Held



Workforce Partnership held its annual Career Exploration at the Shelby County Fairgrounds on September 28 & 29. Thirteen schools and approximately 1,000 students participated in the event. The event consisted of two sessions each day where students rotated through five stations amongst 37 booths displayed by 28 local companies. LJ Jellison of Jellison Group was the motivational speaker to begin each session.

