

ISSUE 12 - FALL 2014

SHELBY COUNTY Sizzles

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Workforce Partnership of Shelby County Receives DP&L Grant



Representative from the Workforce Partnership of Shelby County were recently presented a check for \$15,000 from Dayton Power & Light Company (DP&L). The presentation was made during a ceremony held at the University of Dayton Arena. The Partnership was the first recipient of a new initiative sponsored by DP&L.

Dayton Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of The AES Corporation is announcing the creation of an Economic Development Fund. As a part of its Electric Service Plan (ESP), a total of \$6 million will be available to support initiatives in the Dayton region over three years. Along with the collective interests of the regional and state economic development organizations and communities, the fund will stimulate growth and support expanding businesses in the Miami Valley.

DP&L President and CEO Derek A. Porter said "DP&L already partners with organizations in the region; the Economic Development Fund brings that cooperation to a new level. That's why DP&L believes the fund will be a tremendous asset to motivate and accelerate more development in the Miami Valley."

Among the programs offered by the Economic Development Fund:

- Regional Economic Development Grant – provide funding for economic development organizations to support the important missions of these organizations to attract new businesses to the area, promote retention and expansion of existing businesses, workforce development and job growth throughout the region;
- Infrastructure Improvements – provide funding to assist new and existing customers with the costs of installing infrastructure to accommodate growth;
- Site Certification - provide funding and expertise to identify, improve and increase awareness of potential development sites within the DP&L service territory;
- Small Business Deposit Loan Fund – provide seed funding for regional development organizations to operate a revolving loan fund for start-up expenses to establish electric service.

For more information about Dayton Power and Light and its investments in the community or energy-saving programs available to businesses, please visit www.dpandl.com.

Fastenal Announces Location Change in Sidney



Fastenal Company has announced plans to relocate in Sidney by the end of 2014. This move is very exciting for this industrial supplier of specialty fasteners and industrial vending machines. The move will be to a new building currently under construction on North Vandemark Road, giving them the capability to bring a bigger and better customer experience to Sidney and Shelby County.

According to Matthew Hudson, District Manager for the Greater Dayton Ohio Area, "We feel that being closer to St. Rt. 47 and I-75 will be a benefit to Fastenal's customers. We are also increasing our store size by an additional 40% again with intent to benefit Fastenal's customers". Hudson also stated, "With the continued support from our customers in and around the Sidney area, we feel that this improvement strengthens our relationship the best way possible. Since we are upgrading our facilities, we are increasing our head

count and activity looking for new part-time sales trainees/support personnel."

Over the past 47 years, Fastenal has grown from a small-town fastener shop, to a thriving regional business, to North America's largest fastener distributor, to the world's most efficient supplier of OEM, MRO, and construction products. Along the way, they've never wavered in their belief that great service starts with being close to their customers, which is why today they operate nearly 2,700 stores spanning all 50 states and 20-plus nations.

This project was brokered by Commercial Space Experts of Willowbrook Real Estate. Agents, Becky Reese and Craig Hughes worked with Miami Properties, LLC to bring a new building to Sidney. This 12,000 square foot facility is anchored by Fastenal and has 6,000 square feet still available (divisible) for lease.

Airstream Expands in Jackson Center

Airstream, Inc. recently broke ground on a major building expansion at their Jackson Center complex. The project involves the construction of a new 94,000 square foot expansion to the travel trailer manufacturing facility. The additional space is needed to meet the ever-growing demand for their recreational vehicles. Airstream will invest nearly \$6 Million for the proposed project including \$4.8 Million in building costs and \$1 Million in machinery and equipment costs.

This project follows additional major investments made this year which includes a complete renovation of the motor home manufacturing facility and new office space. The total cost for these improvements is over \$2,000,000.

In 2010, Airstream committed to add 99 jobs to its workforce of 192 at that time. Airstream dramatically over performed that commitment by hiring 259 employees, bringing their current employment to 451 employees. This new project includes adding 125 new jobs over the next three years.

The State of Ohio and the Village of Jackson Center have worked closely with Airstream to assist with this project. Assistance from the State included a Job Creation Tax Credit and a grant. The Village will enter into a Community Reinvestment Area Agreement with the company.

In 1931, Airstream began with Wally Byam's dream 'to build a travel trailer that would move like a stream of air, be light enough to be towed by a car and create first-class accommodations anywhere'. Airstream is the most thoroughly tested brand in trailer history. Its engineering is the culmination of over 80 years of experience plus millions of miles on roads throughout the world. In 1952, Wally Byam began building Airstream RV's in Jackson Center. Today, the Jackson Center facility is the only plant producing the Airstream RV's. Visit Airstream.com for more information.



The Workforce Academy Pilot Program Begins at Sidney City Schools

Recently ceremonies were held to dedicate facilities of the Workforce Academy at Sidney High School. Dr. Richard Ross, Ohio's Superintendent of Public Instruction and other dignitaries joined in the ceremonies. The Academy is a pilot program promoting job opportunities in Shelby County. Although the pilot program begins at Sidney High School, the curriculum will be made available to all Shelby County Schools. In the Career Academy, students will explore various career opportunities and develop a career plan.

Students will visit local facilities to explore, job shadow, intern and see firsthand the job opportunities in Shelby County. During the second semester, students will be offered the Skills Academy. In this class, students will focus on developing the necessary 21st century skills required for current and future careers. The class is led by Sharon Maurice.

In addition, a Workforce Mobile Career Lab, constructed by Airstream Inc., will be used to reach out to all county students. The Mobile Lab will offer opportunities for students throughout Shelby County to learn more about lucrative careers in Shelby County and the skills needed to enter those careers. The Workforce Mobile Career Lab has been fitted with monitors, technology and teaching aids in order to provide a complete educational experience on wheels.



Students and Staff Ribbon "Cable" Cutting Ceremony.

The Workforce Mobile Career Lab, classroom furniture and technology were funded by generous donations from businesses, individuals and foundations in the county.

The curriculum was developed by the Workforce Partnership of Shelby County, a non-profit organization comprised of over 40 business partners throughout Shelby County. The Partnership and classroom activities are under the leadership of Sharon Maurice, Executive Director. The goal is to build a strong workforce for Shelby County businesses. The Partnership will expose students and the community to the various career opportunities in Shelby County. For more information, visit WorkforcePartner.com.

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The publishers invite your comments, suggestions, story ideas, and sponsorship of future issues. If you have questions or concerns, please contact **Mike Dodds** - mdodds@westohiodevelopment.com

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Shelby County Courthouse “Legacy Project”

The Shelby County Commissioners recently announced plans to make substantial, and much needed improvements, to the County Courthouse. The Shelby County Courthouse is a 123 year old, 39,303 square foot, 4-story block structure located in the heart of downtown Sidney. This “Legacy Project” will be completed using capital improvement funds, permanent improvement funds and monies borrowed from the county treasurer totaling \$4.8 million to be paid back over the next five years. Energy Systems Group (ESG) was selected to develop and implement the project after a lengthy and detailed RFP (Request for Proposal) process was completed.

ESG created a team uniting ten local contractors including Area Energy & Electric, Midwest Maintenance, Stull Woodworks Inc., Regal Plumbing, Dickman Supply, Eck Refrigeration, Hemm’s Glass Shops, Westerheide Construction, OVIS, and Sollmann Electric to develop and undertake implementation of this expansive project. Plans are to have completion done in time for the historical County Courthouse to celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2016. The scope of the project which will reduce utility and operating costs will include:

- New Hybrid Heat Pump HVAC System
- Lighting System Replacements and Retrofits
- Drop Ceiling Replacements
- Fire/Life Safety System Installation
- Window Replacement
- Door Replacements and Repairs
- Roof Replacements & Repairs
- Masonry/Stone Restoration
- Integrated Building Automation & Control

ESG has also engaged their marketing team to design a project web site that will have a Facebook link to communicate the project’s purpose and progress. Objectives, photographs, client interviews and statements will be posted along with community comments and feedback.

The Shelby County Commissioners, ESG, and the local contractors all look forward to making the needed improvements that will ensure the Shelby County Courthouse remains a vital component of the downtown for decades to come.