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{43110}



2015

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Take a Look Inside

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Celebrating 30 Years of *Business Excellence* in Canal Winchester!

The Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce's roots trace back to July 1956 when a group of civic-minded citizens established the area's first Chamber of Commerce. After only 12 years of operation, the Chamber failed to pick up steam and became officially inactive in January 1969.

Several attempts were made to reunite the business community, but it wasn't until 1985, that through the efforts of Vicki Shaw and nearly 40 businesses, the Chamber was re-established. These new founders realized that the CW Chamber could

benefit surrounding communities such as Lithopolis, so on March 13, 1985, the Board of Directors added the word "area" to the name of the Chamber and officially became The Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce.

In 2015, our Chamber is celebrating 30 years of promoting a strong and solid business environment in Canal Winchester and beyond. We are proud to be 260 members strong, which puts us in the top 25 of the largest Chambers of Commerce in Central Ohio, according to Columbus Business First.



We pride ourselves in developing close community ties with residents, city officials, and our school district. The organization is comprised of businesses, individuals and organizations dedicated to the promotion of business and the community.

The mission of the Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote and foster the free enterprise system through economic development, to advocate for local business interests, and to provide investor benefits.

If you have a business that is not yet a member of the CW Area Chamber of Commerce, please call us at 614-837-1556 to learn the benefits of membership!



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DOWNTOWN

Downtown Canal Winchester – The Place to Be!

by Amy S. York, Esq

Relax and unwind with a leisurely stroll through historic downtown Canal Winchester and you soon realize that the area is a gem hidden halfway between Columbus and Lancaster, just a couple of miles south of US-33.

This friendly town maintains its welcoming, safe, small-town charm and appeal, despite its proximity to bigger cities. In addition to its iconic train depot, central fountain, and green spaces, downtown Canal Winchester hosts several local and regional festivals and events, including an Easter Egg Hunt (March-April), Art Stroll (May), Blues & Ribs Fest (August),

Labor Day Festival (September), Ghost Tours (October), Courage Conquer Cure 5K Race (October), Veterans Celebration (November), and Christmas in the Village (December). Both the Art Stroll and Christmas in the Village offer visitors the opportunity to stroll through downtown Canal Winchester and visit the displays, exhibits, and activities held in local businesses.





The Canal Winchester Farmers Market runs from May through September, offering fresh, locally grown vegetables, fruits, and flowers as well as products from local artists and crafters on Saturday mornings from 9-12.

Any day of the week or year, however, you can enjoy the bustle of the streets, with shoppers "hopping" from store to store to see what new

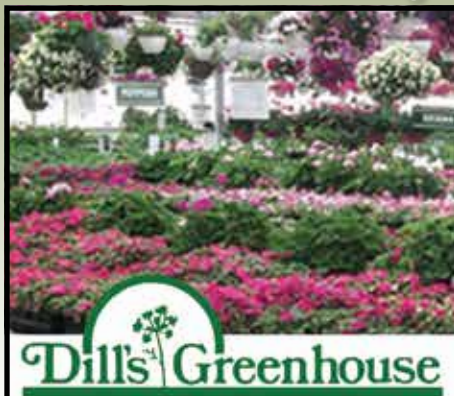
"old" items Georgie Emerson and Sticks and Stones have put together or to select an award-winning cupcake from Fantasy Cupcake (the flavors change every month!).

Perhaps the weather has caught you off guard, and you decide to stop at Thrifty Chic for a well-priced, high-quality, previously owned top or jacket. If you are looking for that signature item for your home, you might want to stop in at

continued on page 9



Some of the many beautiful exhibits at the Art Stroll



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Did that anniversary or birthday sneak up on you? Visit Shaw and Son Family Jewelers to help you find the perfect gift.

Settle onto a bench and people-watch a while, or choose a patio seat at Village Wines, Harvest Moon, or Shade on the Canal and enjoy a beverage and tasty meal. Village Wines often has live music on the patio on Thursday evenings and Harvest Moon often has live music on the patio or indoors on Fridays and Saturdays, year round. If pizza is more your style, try Roman's or Renaldi's. Dairy Queen offers frozen treats that make a perfect ending to a great meal.

Having a hard time deciding which shops you'd like to visit? Try one of the downtown merchants' organized shop hops, held in March, September, and November. Each shop hop has its own theme where specials, prizes, and treats are provided, and the shopkeepers raise money for a local charity or needy family. Bring your friends and 'hop' to each shop to check out the wares and see what's new.

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A little sizzle at the Blues and Ribs Fest



Catch up with neighbors at the Farmer's Market



EVENTS

Community Events

Art Stroll: Usually the 2nd Saturday in May.

The Canal Winchester Art Guild is the proud sponsor of the annual CW "Art Stroll". The public is invited to check out the offerings by local artists who are located in businesses and studios throughout downtown Canal Winchester and at Stradley Park, displaying a wide variety of art and mediums including paintings, collage, glass, wood, jewelry, photography, pottery, fiber art and mixed media. Entertainment provided.

www.canalwinchesterartguild.weebly.com

Farmers' Market: Held on Saturdays – rain or shine – May thru September.

Closed for the weekend of the Blues & Ribfest and the Labor Day Festival. Whether it's delicious fresh vegetables, fruits, & herbs or mouth-watering home baked goods or something pretty to display, you'll find something great at the Canal Winchester Farmers' Market. What better way to start a summer Saturday than to swing by the market where friendly vendors and neighbors alike will greet you as you shop.



Check out www.theCWFM.com for specific starting and end dates and other info.



Blues & Ribfest: Held on the first FULL weekend in August. 2015 Dates: August 7-8.

Mark your calendar now for this two day summer street celebration featuring live blues music, world-class ribs, a wide variety of quality non-rib food options, children's activities, fan-cooled dining areas, and a beer & wine garden for our Blues/Rib-loving guests 21 and over. Held rain or shine in Canal Winchester's historic downtown area.

See www.BluesandRibfest.com for all the up-to-date information.

| | |
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Labor Day Festival: *Always the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend.*

2015 Dates: September 5-7. The annual Labor Day Festival is Canal Winchester's largest and longest running event. What began in 1920 as a small gathering called the Fall Festival, has grown into a local tradition that attracts over 40,000 visitors each year. Come down and enjoy great food, entertainment, rides and games and the HUGE Labor Day Parade!

Check out www.CWLaborDay.org for more details.

Historic Ghost Tour: *Usually held the first FULL weekend (Friday & Saturday) in October.*

2015 Dates: October 9-10. Sponsored by the Canal Winchester Area Historical Society, the Historic Ghost Tour allows residents to learn about local history in a walking tour with long-gone figures from our past. Fun and fascinating! Tickets required.

www.CWhistory.org

Christmas in the Village: *Held the first weekend in December.* 2015 dates: December 4-5.

Get into the Christmas Spirit by coming to CW's annual storybook Christmas celebration in the historic downtown. Activities include the Santa Parade, horse drawn carriage rides, visits with Santa, kids' games & crafts, carolers, ice sculptures, the official tree lighting and much more.

Details at www.CanalWinchesterOhio.gov

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CW's Three Major Business Corridors Showing Positive Growth

by Lucas Haire

Historic Canal Winchester has always lived the motto of "Preserving Our Past, While Promoting Our Future", and this motto rings true today.

The historic downtown business district is thriving with new businesses opening and building owners upgrading their properties. Commercial growth remains strong in the Gender Road corridor with new buildings under construction and tenant spaces being retrofitted. Our industrial parks are also active once again with major expansions planned and new businesses committing to investment in the community. All sectors of our local economy are growing along with the population of the community, which is quickly approaching 7,500 people.

While the historic district of Canal Winchester has retained its charm over the last few decades, a lot of changes have taken place. Currently, nearly all commercial buildings in this area of the city are occupied and the number of new businesses expressing interest in operating here is at an all-time high. New businesses recently opening in the historic district include Centegon HR Solutions, Fantasy Cupcakes Party Room, Jenna Rosalie Photography, Old School Chiropractic, and Revolution Realty. The City of Canal Winchester continues to invest in our historic district with a new 28-space public

parking lot opening adjacent to the community center, and new historic district and directional signs being completed in the last year. This area of the city will continue to be the "heart" of the community and preserving this special part of Canal Winchester will remain a priority while promoting additional business opportunities.





Gender Road / US 33 Corridor Gains New Businesses

Another thriving commercial corridor in Canal Winchester is the area of Gender Road near US 33. There has been significant development in the area over the last decade with big-box retailers and strip shopping centers dotting the landscape and taking advantage of the more than 60,000 vehicles a day on US 33 and 30,000 per day on Gender Road. Panera Bread recently completed their new location on West Waterloo Street and they will soon be joined on Waterloo by Goodwill of Columbus. Goodwill is planning a new 15,000 square foot retail store and donation center just north of Firestone and behind Starbucks.

Retailers and restaurants are not the only businesses taking advantage of this premium location. The Inn at Winchester Trail is nearing completion of a 117-bed assisted living facility

that will provide a new living option in the community, while Primrose Schools is planning a new 12,000 square foot childcare center adjacent to them on Winchester Boulevard. There are still ample opportunities for new development in the area with outparcels available and a planned Winchester Boulevard extension that will open up even more ground for future development.

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Consumer Corporation Entrepreneur

CW is the place for you.

The City of Canal Winchester is home to a diverse mix of more than 200 businesses from small family-owned operations to larger corporate headquarters. Each of these businesses plays an important role in our community. Welcome to Canal Winchester.



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Canal Pointe Industrial Park has plenty of growth opportunities



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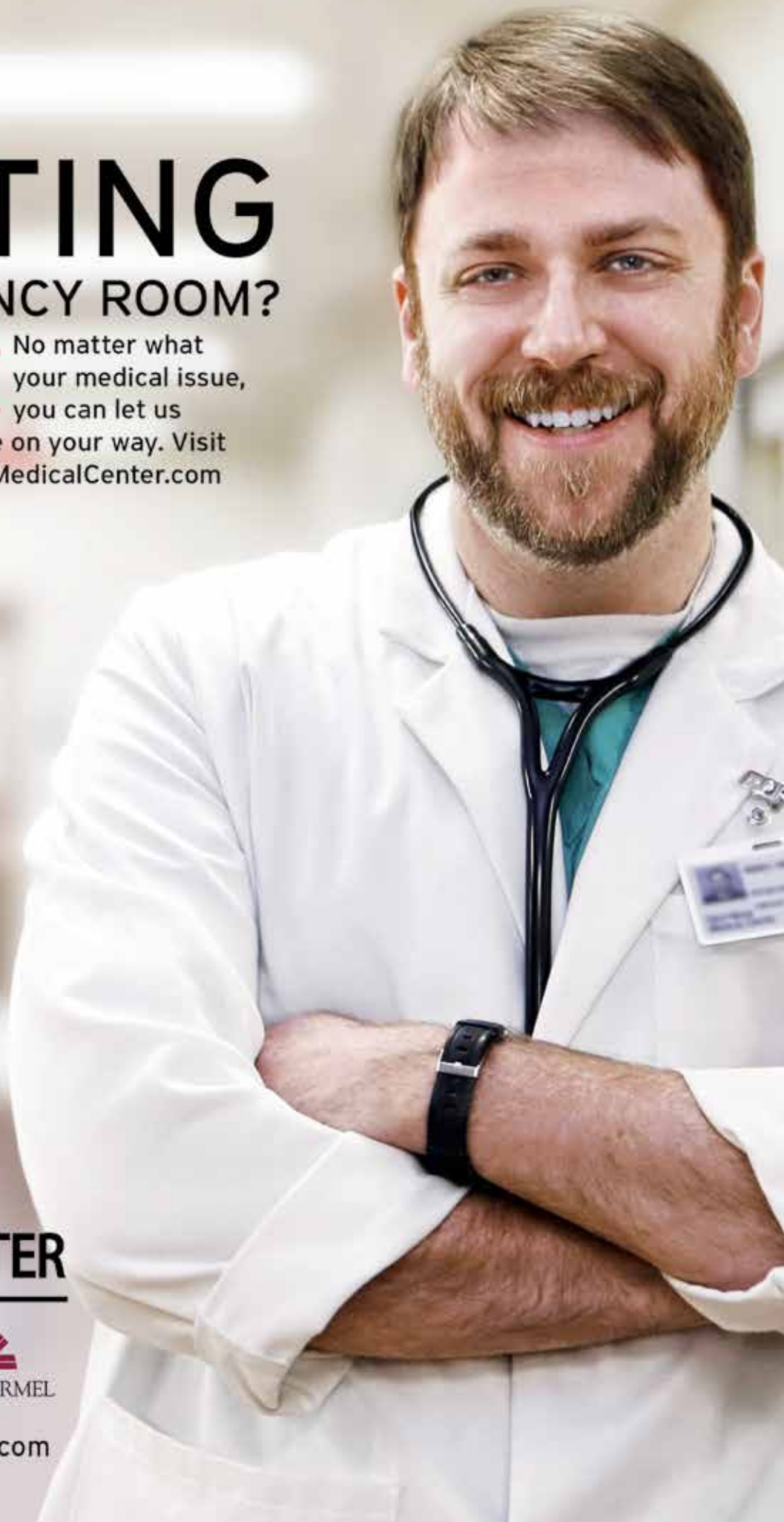
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CW's Industrial Parks see new buildings, expansion and jobs

Canal Winchester has always had a business-friendly environment with industrial businesses enjoying a long history in the community. There are two active industrial parks in the community: West Walnut Park and Canal Pointe Industry and Commerce Park. Canal Pointe, home to more than 30 companies, has had a lot of recent success. REI Telecom and CAM Logistics both recently completed new office/warehouse buildings in the park and Buckeye Power Sales is planning a new 19,000 square foot office/warehouse for their power generator sales and service business. These combined projects will bring 60 new jobs to the community and continue to diversify the economic base.

New buildings are not the only activity in Canal Pointe. Manifold & Phalor, a machine shop on Busey Road, has a 35,000 square foot addition under construction that will more than double the size of their existing building, which was finished in 2010. New companies are also moving into existing space. CAPSA Solutions, a manufacturer of medical carts and equipment, recently relocated from the east side of Columbus to a 120,000 square foot facility at the corner of Diley Road and Dove Parkway to accommodate their growth. They employ 125 people at the facility



and look forward to the opportunity for future growth that their Canal Pointe location provides.

The City of Canal Winchester works hard to create an environment where businesses can thrive, while protecting the charm of the community that makes us unique. Canal Winchester offers all types of businesses the opportunity for success and we are growing in all sectors of our economy.

Lucas Haire is the Development Director of Canal Winchester. Contact him at 614-837-1894 to find out how Canal Winchester can benefit your business.



The REI Telecom building under construction



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Honorees Recognized at the Business Excellence Awards Dinner

On April 10, 2015, The Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce recognized several local businesses and business people at its annual Business Excellence Awards Dinner, held at The Wagnalls Memorial in Lithopolis.

Jody Amspaugh, of Home Helpers in Lancaster, received the first ever President's Award which recognizes a person or business that goes above and beyond to assist and promote the Canal Winchester Area Chamber and its mission.

Amspaugh has been involved with the Chamber since 2011. She currently serves on the Chamber's Board of Directors where she is the Co-Vice President

of Community Outreach. In the past, she has served as a Chamber Ambassador and on event committees. She is one of the leading recruiters of new members.

The Bob Miller Pillar of the Community was awarded to Melda Cottrill of the Canal Banking

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Honorees with their awards at the Annual Chamber Dinner

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New Location Coming Soon - 11955 Springcreek in Pickerington!



Center. This award recognizes her efforts to make the Canal Winchester community a better place to live, visit and do business. She has a history of service to the community through her individual and group efforts, has shown a high-level of commitment to the city, has unselfishly given her time and talents to benefit the community, has shown outstanding character, citizenship, civic leadership and ethics and tirelessly promotes Canal Winchester.

Cottrill served on the Chamber Board of Directors for many years, including several as Chairman. Her dedication to the Chamber has helped ensure the success of businesses within the community. She continues to advocate for the Chamber and other local organizations, including the Canal Winchester Chamber Economic Development Council.

The Business of the Year Award was given to Altercare of Canal Winchester which has touched the lives of thousands of patients, families and loved ones in the years that it has served the community by offering a home which provides quality continuing care and meets the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of patients and residents. In addition, they support the community each year by providing a community Easter Egg Hunt, a community Trick or Treat Night, multiple food drives, school supply drives, Empty Bowls and blood drives. Altercare of

Canal Winchester also sponsors and participates in community events, such as the Relay for Life and Courage, Conquer and Cure.

The final award of the evening was the **Business Person of the Year**, which went to Carmelita



The Chamber's Awards Dinner was well-attended

Smith of CornerSmiths. Through her business activities, Smith raises the level of excellence of the Canal Winchester business community and promotes the community at large. She and her business consistently demonstrate outstanding customer service, work quality and ethics, have strong leadership and business skills, and significantly contribute to the Chamber and the business community at large. Smith has demonstrated a strong commitment to community involvement, specifically by helping the downtown district organize the Moonlight Shop Hops and other initiatives to help promote business within the city.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding businesses and business people!





JOBS

Fairfield County Working with CW to Create Local Jobs

by Bob Clark

The Fairfield County Economic Development Office (FCED) wears many hats. Our mission statement is to provide the best possible service for businesses in Fairfield County.

Job creation and job retention will always be our primary focus while working with businesses to create a successful environment for growth. We successfully partner with other economic development specialists in the county to further our common goals.

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FCED is involved in the work of the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance, Workforce Development initiatives including the county's Workforce Development Training Grant (WDTG), the county's revolving loan fund, and the Fairfield County Port Authority.

We maintain a property data base that aligns with state project leads. We visit local businesses to support job retention and expansion. We also promote and market the county inside and outside its geographic boundaries.

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Fairfield 33 Development Alliance works to bring businesses to Fairfield County's 33 Corridor

The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance is a private/public non-profit corporation established to market the economic benefits of locating your business along the 33 Corridor in Fairfield County. Since its inception in 2007, the 33 Alliance has helped bring in 32 projects, created 2,254 jobs representing \$224.5 million in capital investment. It helped provide funding for two of its larger industrial sites (Canal Pointe and Rockmill) to be Ady-Austin certified. These sites are shovel-ready. The Alliance and City of Lancaster are currently working to complete an AEP site certification on a third 110 acre industrial site.

Alliance team members from the County, Canal Winchester, Pickerington and Lancaster meet with corporate site selectors and realtors to promote the visibility and viability of locating a business in Fairfield County. The networking opportunities gained from these meetings have resulted in future calls back to the county for potential new projects.

The Alliance recently completed an advertorial that was published in Columbus Business First. The Advertorial details many aspects of Fairfield County, including its growth, low cost of doing business and our strong workforce. Canal Winchester, Lancaster and Pickerington are spotlighted in the publication, detailing their unique identities and their focus on driving business to the area.

The Alliance is working with a consulting company to develop an Economic Development Strategic Plan. The goal is to identify future Alliance strategies for business attraction, workforce development and business and retention initiatives. The plan is expected to be completed in late July.

fairfield 33 corridor
Central Ohio's Road to Opportunity

With the re-shoring of manufacturing, local companies are seeing the need for a more skilled workforce. The Workforce Development Committee, composed of local educators, economic & workforce development personnel and business leaders, is striving to create the pipeline of skilled workers that will lead to local job growth and retention.

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County lending program provides gap financing

The Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is a lending program, administered by the department, for small business startups or those businesses hoping to expand. RLF partners with private lenders and is able to provide gap financing at low interest rates. Job creation/retention is the prime goal. While the department does not have the staffing to be a business mentor, it does have resources to share with entrepreneurs who have questions.

Port Authority projects allow for big cost savings

The Fairfield County Port Authority, established by the Board of Commissioners in 2013, promotes Fairfield County, forming relationships to foster economic growth utilizing available tools to help finance economic development projects. Port Authority projects are not subject to prevailing

wages or sales tax on building materials, allowing a substantial cost savings to the partner. The local Authority is designing a website that will develop its growth.

The department is the recipient of all state business project leads created by Jobs Ohio or our regional partner, Columbus 2020. We maintain a data base of sites and buildings that have the potential to match with these leads. Only properties that are in the data base can be submitted for these leads. Ensuring that all data is accurate and all available properties are included is a function of the department.

Staying in touch with local businesses

The office engages in business retention and expansion visits by doing on site visits to local companies. The purpose of these meetings is to see how a business is doing. Is it encountering any problems that can be mitigated? Is it anticipating growth or contraction of operations? Can the department offer assistance? It is

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good to have a pulse on the local community and to be proactive for companies.

We market the county by supporting and maintaining two websites: www.fairfield33.com and www.businesscounty.com. We publish a monthly newsletter, the Fairfield Advantage, send out weekly News You Can Use blasts, and do a radio show with guests from the local, state and regional levels. We are available for public speaking engagements on programs we support and offer.

Bob Clark is the Fairfield County Development Director. Contact him at 740-652-7160 to find out how Fairfield County can help you make it to your first dollar of profit faster!

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"Delivering extraordinary service is what we do, what makes us who we are, and what makes us the right choice for so many of our neighbors," said FNB President Steve Wells. "If you're looking for a bank that takes the time to understand you, finds opportunity where others may see challenges, and believes the future is built on relationships and where your trust is earned, then we invite you to visit Fairfield National Bank."

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EXPANSION

Newly Formed Chamber *Economic Development Council* to Focus on Economic Growth and Expansion for Area Businesses

In 2014 the Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce -- in its desire to take an aggressive stance to promote and grow its membership and area businesses -- voted to form an economic development council.

In July 2014 the Canal Winchester Chamber Economic Development Council (CWCEDC) received its IRS designation as a 501c3 charitable organization, giving it the ability to obtain grants not readily available to the membership arm of the Chamber of Commerce.

The purpose of the CWCEDC is to create environments that are conducive for innovation, connectivity, and the emergence of commercial enterprises making valuable products and services.

Connie Spruill, a long-time Chamber board member who serves as the Acting-Chair of CWCEDC and who

spearheaded the formation of the council, believes that economic development is not "imported," but that we must unlock the innovative potential in our own people, community and schools and take an aggressive stance for business growth. It's her vision to partner with other economic development agencies in the area to create an entrepreneurial culture laying foundations for future businesses in our city.

One of the council's most important goals is to have a stronger presence in area school districts, developing internship opportunities that introduce students to the free enterprise system.

Board members of the Canal Winchester Chamber Economic Development Council include:

Connie Spruill, Business Development Consultant

Alan York, Operations Director, Centagon HR Solutions

Cindy Lynch, Lynch Retirement Advisors

Kathy Binner, Owner, Kathy Binner Companies

Carl Heister, Supreme Realty

Jim Barnett, CPA, Barnett Accounting Group

Melda Cottrill, Manager, Canal Banking Center



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The City of Canal Winchester hosts a free family-friendly event on the third Friday of the months of May, June, and July, featuring live music, balloon animals, touch-a-truck events, and other activities.

Downtown Canal Winchester also boasts banks, salons, realtors, insurance agencies, attorneys, doctors, financial advisors, and accountants, as well as the Community Center and senior citizens club.

It seems like there's always something going on in downtown Canal Winchester, and it's always exciting to see! Come visit downtown Canal Winchester and see for yourself!

Be sure to visit these chamber of commerce members: CornerSmiths, Thrifty Chic, Shaw and Son Family Jewelers, and Shade on the Canal.

Amy S. York is a member of the CWACC Board of Directors and is the owner of York Law Firm.



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Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce

Serving the community and our business members for 30 years!

If you currently own a business or are starting one, you should join the Chamber of Commerce. Here is a short list of some of our member benefits!

FREE Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies The Chamber will conduct a grand opening/ribbon cutting using ceremonial scissors, ribbon and our Chamber Ambassadors.

Networking Opportunities The Chamber holds monthly luncheons and periodic "Business After Hours" functions, as well as our Annual golf Outing that help our members network and do business.

Member-to-Member Discount Program Only Chamber members can participate in this program that enables member businesses to exchange discounts on products and services.

Membership Referrals When the Chamber receives inquiries regarding industries in the CW area, only Chamber members are referred.

Advocacy The Chamber's governmental affairs committee and coalitions act as business advocates for our members, bringing the voice of local business to elected officials in the halls of government

Prescription Drug Discount Cards Enjoy average savings of up to 20% on brand name drugs and average savings up to 79% for generics! Cards can also be used for the purchase of diabetic equipment, vision expenses, and hearing aids. Available to you and your employees for FREE!

Superior Dental Care Many options available for groups with 2-29 employees or sole proprietors to fit your needs. Chamber members receive up to a 5% discount on special benefit plans!

Cintas Document Management Enjoy specials savings of up to 35% off document shredding for chamber members!

EyeMed Vision Discount Card Enjoy discounts up to 40% on the purchase of contact lenses, annual eye exams, frames and glasses, or even LASIK/PRK treatment. Cards are available to you and your employees for FREE!

For more information about the chamber of commerce or to become a member, please contact us at 614-837-1556. Visit our website at www.canalwinchester.com.