

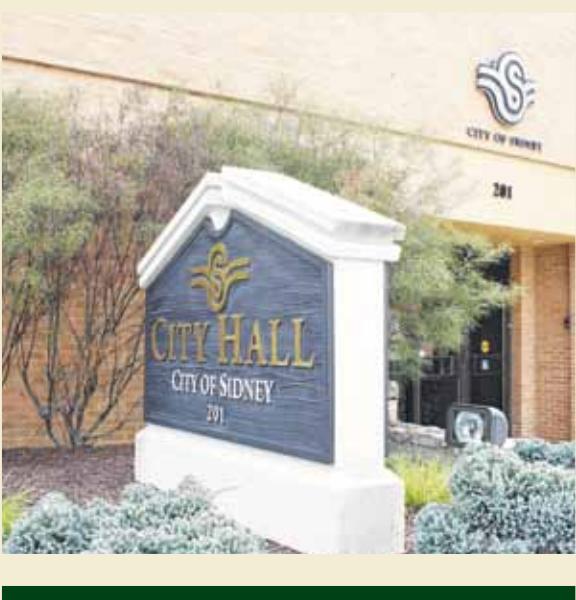
Progress 2017

A SUPPLEMENT

TO: Sidney Daily News



Courts

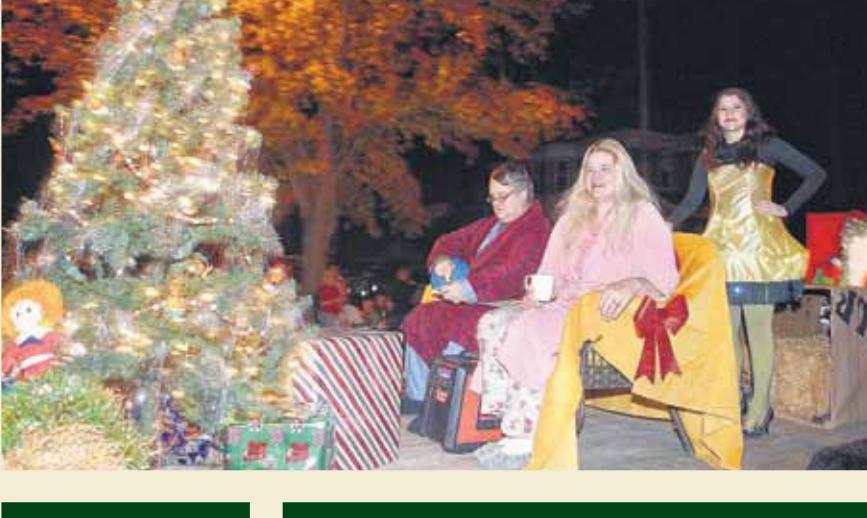


Emergency Services

Education



Second of two sections
February 24, 2017



Arts



Government



Health Care



Community



2017 Accord

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Key investments made for Fair Haven's future

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Last year was an important year for Fair Haven Shelby County Home. "We made key investments in our residents, our staff, and the future of our building," said Anita Miller, executive director.



Miller

Her report continues:

We added a new member of our management team late in the year when we hired our first chef, Robert Schmiesing. He has extensive experience in the restaurant industry, and he has taken a liking to the long-term care atmosphere. Schmiesing has some great ideas for the dietary department as we continue, as always, toward the goal of person-centered care.

We continued planning

for the building project and make significant advances, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our partners at Freytag & Associates and architect Gene Erbe, and also the ongoing support and counsel from Commissioners Julie Ehemann, Bob Guillozet and Tony Bornhorst. We now have a complete floor plan for our

first phase of the project.

We informed the Resident Council about every

step of the process as we discussed it, and the members could not be more excited to see such a significant investment be made for the future of the county home. We had two separate lunch meetings with Resident Council officers to examine the plans and also to offer input with our interior design consultant.

Our residents have especially enjoyed a new program we debuted



Courtesy photo

Fair Haven resident Tom Jacobs pets a lamb at the Shelby County Fair.

in 2016. Every Friday afternoon, we host a Happy Hour. Friends of Fair Haven from across the county graciously donated beer and wine to serve, and we also serve cola and root beer. The residents have really made it their own; they invite family or friends to spend time with them, others break out a deck of cards and play for a while. We

believe it is incredibly important to not only plan therapeutic activities for our residents, but offer them special time to spend how they like. Happy Hour has been tremendously helpful in doing that.

In January 2016, we declared in our newsletter that it was to be our "Year of Kindness" and we focused on being kind to each other and

noticing when others treat us kindly. It is way too easy to be inundated with bad news, and we wanted to do everything in our power to show the bright side to our residents and their families.

I took time in our monthly newsletter to highlight a special story from across the country, and even the world, of others treating people

(even complete strangers) with kindness. We shared with them everything from a world-wide birthday card campaign for a sick child, to a couple from the south buying a new car for a waitress at Cracker Barrel. One great thing was we even had a regional story of kindness that involved Fair Haven's annual mum sale. A gentleman bought a large number of mums and was giving them away to folks near him who did not have flower gardens or displays. We were happy to provide a quality gift to give to others.

Just like any other year, Fair Haven spent 2016 trying to make every possible improvement in service and atmosphere. We always consider it an honor to serve our residents and their families, and we are excited to see what 2017 has in store.

Russia students take advantage of college classes

For the Sidney Daily News

RUSSIA — Russia Local School is working to continue the tradition of providing the highest level of academics to its students while maintaining a positive and caring atmosphere in which Russia is known for.



Rose

"Recently, the Dayton Business Journal ranked Russia the third Highest Performing District in the Dayton Region," said Superintendent Steven Rose. "Within the high school, we have continued to increase the num-

ber of college credits that our students can earn while staying on campus. Through a partnership with Rhodes State and Urbana University,

students can now earn over 50 college credit hours without leaving Russia School. In fact, this year we have two students who will graduate with 47 college credit hours on their transcript without leaving Russia. Another impressive statistic is that the average senior at Russia has earned 40 college credit hours. We feel that students who complete their junior and senior year at

Russia will have the same advantages as students who choose to take college courses at Edison, but in a more nurturing environment within the traditional high school environment."

His report continues:

I am excited to announce that over Christmas break the district purchased 50 Google Chromebooks with the majority of the funding coming from a generous grant of \$8,000 from the Cargill Corporation. These chromebooks have been used to create two mobile carts that are available for teachers to sign out and use within their classrooms.

We chose to purchase Google Chromebooks as a cheaper alternative to traditional laptops. Not only are Chromebooks less expensive to purchase, they also have a lower cost of maintenance. The first impressions from our students and staff have been extremely positive.

Russia School would like to express their sincere appreciation to the Russia Wellness Foundation and the Russia Community who raised funds to build a storage facility at the track. Although this land is still owned by the Russia Wellness Foundation, it will be used to store

numerous supplies for both the school and the athletic department. The district is in severe need of storage and this will be a great benefit to the district and the athletic department.

In December, the Russia Board of Education approved a window replacement project which will include replacing the windows on the north end of the building facing the church. The windows that are being replaced are approximately 50 years old and not only are they inefficient, but numerous panels have substantial corrosion which is causing moisture issues in

some rooms. The new windows will not only be more efficient, but by replacing the panels with glass, it will provide more natural light for the students which is conducive to learning. The bids were extremely competitive and well below our anticipated budget which was a pleasant surprise.

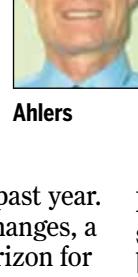
The work is scheduled to be completed between early June and mid July.

In closing I want to thank the Russia Community for your ongoing support of Russia Local School. It is your constant support that makes Russia School what it is today and it is very much appreciated!

Fort Loramie welcomes new businesses, expansions in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

FORT LORAMIE — For the village of Fort Loramie, 2016 was a year of growth and change.



Ahlers

"The downtown area is taking on a new look and the industrial and residential areas of the village continue to grow," said Mayor Randy Ahlers. "The village has issued over \$5.3 million in building permits this past year. In addition to these changes, a new park is on the horizon for future use."

His report continues:

The downtown got a new look in 2016. The vacated Seger's Restaurant/Hotel was demolished in August. This will allow the town to add a turn lane on North Main Street. The rest of the land will be used for green space.

On the Southwest corner, Vogelsang's Restaurant and the Eilerman Insurance building were taken down to allow space for the new Casey's

General Store, which is a convenience store and gas station. They are located at the corner of state Route 705 (Park Street) and state Route 66 (Main Street) and is scheduled to open in April 2017. Another addition to the downtown area is Eileen's Natural Soap. They are located on West

Main and produce natural soaps and lotions which are being sold locally at all Wagner's stores and regionally in other independent stores. The business is being operated by local residents, Sheila and Kevin Musser.

Industrial Sector

- AAG Inc., formerly in Clayton, Ohio, moved its operations into a 17,000 square

foot building at 62 Elm St. It is a growing, commercial and industrial glass company that employees 32 people.

- Custom Foam Products has added another addition onto its building to accommodate the growth of the business.

- Tooling Technology added a new 12,000 square foot building to its already large footprint in the Industrial Park. Tooling Tech now operates out of three buildings in the industrial park.

Retail Sector

- Primary Eye Care has relocated to the corner of state Route 705 and Dawson Road. The newly-remodeled building is 12,000 square feet. Primary Eye Care is housed in 4,800 square feet of the building.

- Eilerman Insurance has relocated from the downtown area to the Primary Eye Care

building. They occupy 1,000 square foot of the building.

- E-bikes is also located in the Primary Eye Care building. They occupy approximately 5,000 square feet of the building and is operated by Eric Loudenback. E-bikes is a gym that offers HIIT, TRX and indoor cycling classes. He plans to be selling bikes in the near future.

Parks and Subdivisions

- Redskin Memorial Park is located just east of the High School. Over this past summer, the village has put the finishing touches on the underground construction of the park. The first shelter house/storage building has been completed. The new high school practice field was leveled and irrigated in hopes that it will be used this coming year. A \$500,000 grant from the state of Ohio was awarded to help finance the

park project.

- Woodland Estates Subdivision is a new subdivision located off Elm Street, east of the village, connecting to the Redskin Memorial Park. There are 22 lots making up this subdivision. Fifteen of these lots are already sold and five houses are completed and occupied. The subdivision was established by Rapid Development of Fort Loramie.

The year 2017 will be the long awaited reconstruction of Main Street. This will be the largest project the village has ever done. The reconstruction will run from Park Street to Enterprise Drive. The project will include a new street, curbs, sidewalks and street lights. It will also include moving all utilities underground along with new water and storm sewer lines. A grant of \$500,000 was received on this project as well.

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Lehman graduates awarded \$2,272,152 in scholarships

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Lehman Catholic High School is the only state-chartered, Roman-Catholic comprehensive institution that provides secondary education for the students of Auglaize, Darke, Logan, Mercer and Shelby Counties in West Central Ohio. The school is dual accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement and the Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association.



Bennett

"Students at Lehman Catholic High School average an ACT composite score of 24.2, which exceeds the state ACT average score and includes the testing of their entire student body," said Melissa Bennett, Lehman's executive director.

Her report continues: Students have the opportunity to complete comprehensive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) coursework, as well as advance placement classes that pro-

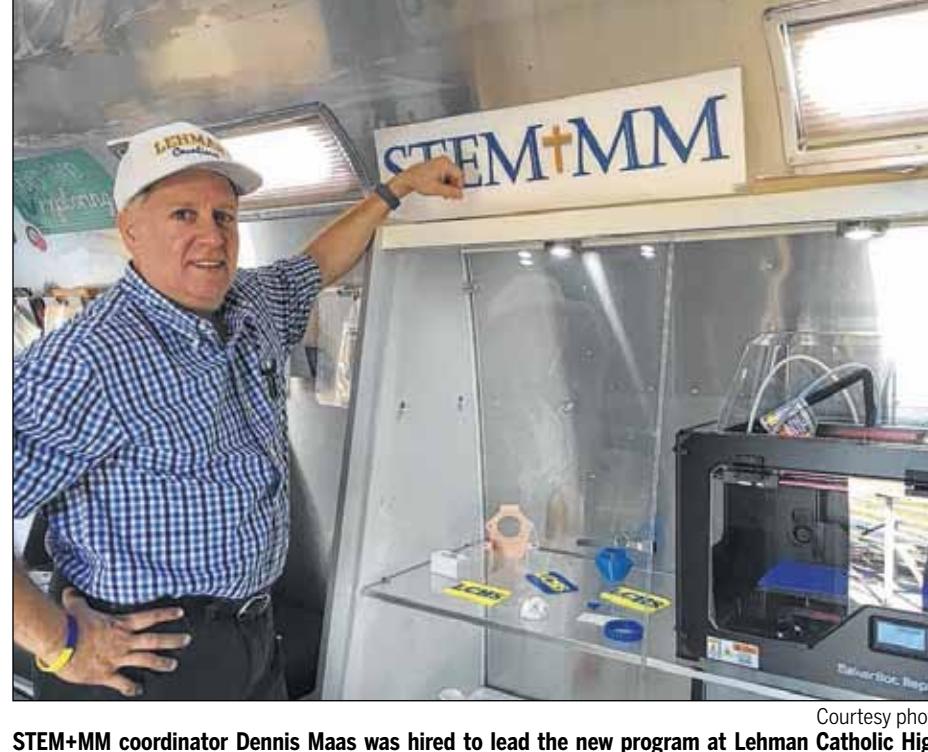
vide dual high school and post-secondary credits. Lehman has been recognized for the Governor's Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM education consecutively since 1988.

In 2016, 40 students graduated from Lehman Catholic High School. The graduates were awarded \$2,272,152 in college scholarships with 80 percent of the class received scholarship recognition for their entrance into a two- or four-year college. All of the graduates pursued a two- or four-year institution of study.

The school offers 18 varsity sports including baseball, basketball, cross country, cheerleading, fastpitch, football, golf, swimming track and field and wrestling opportunities.

There are 14 academic clubs and co-curricular activities and five service clubs. Students have the opportunity travel abroad and to do missionary work in the United States.

Lehman has been busy finding the best ways to move forward with enhanced Science,



Courtesy photo
STEM+MM coordinator Dennis Maas was hired to lead the new program at Lehman Catholic High School in July 2016.

Technology, Engineering, Math, Medicine and Manufacturing (STEM+MM) curriculum at Lehman Catholic High School.

We currently have five of the 11 rooms scheduled for renovation vacated and once the diocese and architects have bid packages ready; we hope to start the conversions and updates.

Curriculum Handbooks are currently being updated to

include new offerings for Fall 2017.

The overall goal of STEM+MM remains: Increase exposure and awareness of thriving technical careers in our local area, with the hope that our young people will find a field of interest to fit their vocation and be encouraged to pursue any additional education to meet the ever increasing technological needs of industry.

Lehman Catholic

High School is in their third year of instruction of The Teen Leadership Corps class, which is a national curriculum, designed to build and enhance leadership qualities. Teen Leadership Corps is an Academic Service Leadership Program for high schools.

Electronic portfolios have also been included in the freshman and sophomore curriculum. Every freshman and sophomore has estab-

lished an electronic portfolio that will follow them throughout their high school education. They also have a faculty/staff mentor working with them on these portfolios. The portfolio addresses both academic and faith goals. Students will utilize these portfolios to create a roadmap for their life beyond Lehman. Students can utilize their portfolios to build resumes for college applications and to set life goals intertwining both their knowledge and faith.

The mission of Lehman Catholic High School is to educate the whole person - body, mind, and soul - for the glory of God and service to others. LCHS was established by the Sisters of Charity. The school is growing academically, as well as spiritually. Lehman welcomes all walks of faith to join in the Lehman experience.

Open house was Feb. 8. Registration for 2017-2018 begins in February. Be a part of an education that celebrates God and educates the person to reach their fullest potential. Come join our Lehman Catholic Family!

Auditor's Office has good, bad news in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The year 2016 was a year of good news and bad news, said Shelby County Auditor Amy Berning.



Berning

"Revenues for the County were at a sufficient level to cover the County's needs, and we were able to grow our Permanent Improvement account by \$1.2 million to end at \$3.7 million," said Berning. "This account will be available in the event of future economic downturns or unexpected expenses."

That's good news! From 2008 through 2015 the county had to transfer amounts varying from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 from the Permanent Improvement account in order to cover

operating expenses. In 2016 we did not need to tap into that account, and we were able to grow the balance for future protection."

Her report continues:

The bad news is the estimated loss in sales tax revenue predicted for the second half of 2017 and onward. The Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ruled that applying a sales tax only to managed-care organizations dealing with Medicaid patients is not allowed. In Ohio, that ruling will go into effect in July of 2017 and will mean a loss of around a half-million dollars for Shelby County annually. Sales tax is a big deal for the county, as it provides 40 percent of the County's General Fund revenue and is the only source of revenue for the Permanent Improvement Fund and the

Capital Improvement Fund. Gov. John Kasich has promised that the state will find a way to supplement local governments that are hit the hardest by the reduced sales tax revenues, but he plans to "wean them off" over a period of a few years, and we have yet to find out if Shelby County's \$.5 million loss will be enough to consider us among the "hardest hit".

Our Capital Improvement Fund is funded by .25 percent of the county's sales tax and is the account used for large projects. It has a balance of \$1.2 million, but a significant amount of the money that comes into this account is earmarked for repaying the loan for the major courthouse renovation which was completed in 2016. Payments of approximately \$655,000 will be made in 2017, 2018 and

2019, and then we will have that major project paid off. The Capital Improvement Fund was able to cover the following in 2016 in addition to the courthouse project: a new roof for the barn at the Shelby County Developmental Disabilities facility, a water system overhaul at the jail, paving of the jail parking lot, and a new roof at the Board of Elections facility.

On the Real Estate side of our office, 2016 was about gathering updates of properties in the county in preparation for the sexennial revaluation which will occur this year. The State of Ohio requires that every property be examined every six years and adjusted to current values. 2017 is the year assigned to Shelby County to perform this analysis. Any changes in your property value will

appear on the tax bills that will be mailed in January 2018.

As a Real Estate reminder, those who will turn 65 years old or older in 2017 can apply at any time for a tax reduction called the Homestead Exemption. Your household's Ohio Adjusted Gross Income must be below \$31,800, but many retired folks qualify since social security income is not included in your Ohio Adjusted Gross Income. Also eligible for this exemption are those who are permanently and totally disabled.

Finally, we are excited to report that the property record search on our website <http://co.shelby.oh.us/auditor> will have a smarter search engine later in the spring! We will be sure to publicize it when the upgrades have been completed!

New Knoxville has success stories in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

NEW KNOXVILLE — New Knoxville Local School District has seen numerous improvements and success stories in the school district in 2016.



Waterman

Superintendent Kim Waterman has submitted the following report beginning with facility improvements.

With a significant donation to our weight room, we were able to upgrade

our weight room facility with state of the art equipment. A new batting cage for our baseball teams was completed. We traded in and purchased a new school bus.

The band purchased approximately \$7,600 worth of new instruments and equipment. We went into a new contract agreement with MT Business Technologies, Inc.

for copiers. Both gym floors were cleaned, screened, and finished.

We changed to RUMKE for our waste and recycling management services. The New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary donated \$8,690 for Science Gizmos.

Professional Development

Professional development for our staff has been centered on the safety of our students with focus on Mental Health. A book study was conducted over the summer on, "A Framework of Understanding Poverty." We followed the book

study up with professional development facilitated by Jen Korte with ACE Academy. Donna Dickman, director of the Partnership for Violence Free Families and Jami Dellefield also from the PVFF presented Youth Mental Health First Aid in December.

New Knoxville School Climate

Great leadership from our teaching staff has energized our teachers as well as bringing enthusiasm to our student body. Rooms were transformed over the summer into teacher inspired themes. "Houses" were formed to promote team unity amongst the student body. Service projects, leadership, teamwork, competition, and working towards smoothing for the better of all are key themes that have come out of this initiative.

Tri Star Career Compact 2.0

All nine of the Tri Star schools voted on a levy to pay for a new facility with OFCC co-paying

for academic core space, career technical space and site access allowance. The levy passed and plans are moving forward to build across from the Wright State Lake Campus. Fanning Howey have been chosen as the architectural firm to design the new facility.

Student Achievements

Students at New Knoxville continue to excel academically and in the extracurricular activities they choose to take part in. We have students represented musically in Honors Jazz Band and the band received an Excellent Rating at the District III State competition. Artwork has been accepted in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibit, Lima Artspace Kewpee, Kewpee High School Art Showcase, and Wright State Lake Campus Spring Art Show. Jake Blitch was named a National Merit finalist. Devin Kuck received the Entrepreneurship Award for the Business

Professionals of America Regional Contest, top 10 in the state. Serna Hostetter was our Franklin B. Walter award recipient as her as well as her Mary Wiest, the teacher that has influenced her the most.

2017

It is always our hope that our current enrollment stays steady or increases. We will be trading in an old bus and purchasing a new school bus. We are always looking for bus drivers to assist in driving routes.

Jerry VanderHorst will be retiring as our athletic director, testing coordinator and health/physical education teacher. He will be completing his 25th year with us. He has been a valuable member of the New Knoxville staff and will be missed. Cathy Doseck will be taking a new treasurer position in Anna. She has put in a lot of time and dedication to our organization. Ted Rupert, our custodial engineer, will be retiring after 29 years of service.

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SCS introduces Positive Power Interventions and Supports

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Sidney City Schools (SCS) continues to make great strides.

"During the current 2016-17 school year, the district launched a positive behavior program in many of its schools and plans to have the program fully implemented in all schools in the coming years," said Superintendent John Scheu. "Pizza Hut is now being served as a part of the district's school lunch program, and the district continues to update resources and technology as it looks to the future. Students at SCS continue to achieve and perform above and beyond in extra curricular activities."

His report continues: PBIS – An Acronym with Positive Power Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a decision-making framework that guides schools to implement evidence-based academic and behavioral practices. Each building has a PBIS team dedi-



Scheu

cated to implementing this positive behavior framework.

PBIS Key Components:

- Community Connections - focus on building positive relationships among parents, students, staff, and community.

- Clear Expectations - identify 3-5 school-wide behavioral expectations for students.

- Comprehensive Instruction - provide staff with consistent, explicit instruction, practice, and feedback on expected behaviors.

- Consistent Systems of Acknowledging & Correcting Behaviors - commit to responding to student behaviors in the same way through: active supervision, proactive scheduling, incentives and reinforcement, logical consequences, and clear office referral procedures.

- Supportive Structure - focus on providing effective academic and behavioral support for all students.

- Proven outcomes for schools that implement

PBIS include: reduction in problem behavior, increased academic performance, improved perception of safety, reduction in bullying behaviors, increased administrator time for instructional leadership, and increased school climate and culture.

PBIS encourages positive behavior. Rules and expectations are stated in a way to tell students what they should be doing, such as "walk in the hallway," instead of focusing on what they shouldn't be doing, "don't run." The intent is to teach and reinforce positive behaviors. Negative behaviors will still be met with negative consequences. The consistency eases transitions between grade levels and staff members, and even from building to building.

While the program is still in the development stage at some schools, common PBIS themes at our elementary schools include: BEE Safe, BEE Responsible, BEE Respectful, BEE a Leader, BEE a Problem Solver, and BEE Ready. Pizza Hut Beginning

this school year, SCS teamed up with Pizza Hut to serve their A+ School Lunch Pizza. This is one of a few ways the district is looking to improve its school lunch menu!

Pizza Hut's special A+ School Lunch Pizza has a rich, whole-grain crust and reduced fat and sodium toppings, meeting the strict nutritional requirements set for schools. The A+ School Lunch Pizza is a good source of protein, calcium and vitamin A, and will be served with salad, fruit and milk to round out the meal.

Students at all grade levels continue to give the pizza two thumbs up as Sidney City Schools Director of Food Services Jason McLain reported lunch purchase numbers rising on pizza day.

Pizza is delivered fresh, hot, and ready to serve, giving cafeteria staff more time to plan and prepare appetizing meals for the other days and improve the lunchroom experience for the students.

Pizza Hut day at all of the elementary schools

takes place on Wednesday; Sidney Middle, High and Alternative schools serve pizza on Thursdays. Students at SMS and SHS also have the option of buying additional pizza à la carte.

Advancing Resources and Looking Ahead The district continues to increase resources. Fourth-twelfth grade science and social studies teachers are working to decide on curriculum to adopt for implementation next year.

In evaluating and choosing a curriculum, Sidney City Schools teachers analyze what will best support their instruction of the standards, support their instruction for students with varied learning profiles, and support student engagement in learning. As a result, our teachers and administration see a need to increase technology in the classroom.

Curriculum and technology are part of a larger district commitment to advance our students' knowledge and awareness of what it takes to be career and college. Keeping this larger commitment a priority, we

will continue to refine our instructional practices, foster collaboration within and outside of the district, and welcome innovation to try new approaches to student learning.

Student Achievements

In the classroom, on stage, at the game, and within the community, our students continue to see success. Here are a few examples from the previous school year:

- Heidi Parker, Erin Ivey, Logan Johnson, and Gabrielle Rice were four out of 18 statewide winners of the 2016 American Legion Americanism and Government Test Winners. SHS has a long history of having state winners, with 29 state winners from SHS since 1970.

- SHS Academia – County Champions for 9th consecutive year; ranked second in the state of Ohio; third consecutive GWOC North title and working towards the fourth title as tournaments started mid-January 2017.

- SHS Marching Band performed at Walt Disney Worlds in the Parade of Lights.

Jackson Township trustees assist with video project

For the Sidney Daily News

JACKSON CENTER — Chairman John Mann reports that the Jackson Township Board of Trustees had a successful year in 2016.

His report continues:

The township maintains 25.664 miles of roadway, and the trustees do road maintenance throughout the year including mowing side ditches, plowing snow and culvert maintenance. Major projects completed in 2016 were the chip and seal of Wells Road from Pasco-Montra Road to Wones Road, chip and seal of Lock-Two Road from state Route 65 East to the Logan

County line, and repair and paving of a portion of Wells Road. Road signs were also upgraded in Trustee Larry Sprague's district. Railroad crossings on Wise, Wildermuth and Linker Roads were upgraded by the railroad, with stop signs replacing the yield signs.

In 2016 the trustees received a \$1,000 grant from the Shelby County Community Foundation to assist the Jackson Center Schools and Village with funding of a community video project to promote the area for growth.

At the Jan. 5, 2017, reorganization meeting, John Mann was elected as chairman,

Robert Zorn was elected vice chairman, and Larry Sprague is the third trustee. Diane Frank is the fiscal officer and Ray Davis is the zoning officer.

Meeting times for the trustees will remain on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the township building located at 17555 State Route 65N, Jackson Center, Ohio. If a scheduling conflict results in a change of meeting date or time, or any special meetings are set, that information will be posted at the township building and the newspaper notified.

Road districts for the trustees are as follows. Mann's district is north of state Route

274, Sprague's district is south of state Route 274 and east of state Route 65, and Zorn's district is south of state Route 274 and west of state Route 65.

Andy Weaver joined the Zoning Board in 2016 after the retirement of long-time Zoning Board member, Ralph Zwiebel, after many years of service to Jackson Township. Other members of the Zoning Board are Willis Fogt, Harry Noah, James Poppe and Ron Wiessinger. The Zoning Board reorganized for the new year on Jan. 19, 2017, electing Harry Noah as chairman and Andy Weaver as vice chairman.

Appeals Board members are Bert Regula, Ray Davis, Her-

man McBride, Tim Davis and James W. Davis. The Appeals Board reorganized for the new year on Jan. 19, 2017, electing Bert Regula as chairman and Herman McBride as vice chairman.

The trustees want to advise all township landowners and building contractors working in the area that Jackson Township has zoning regulations. Before beginning construction projects, please contact Zoning Officer Ray Davis for clarification of zoning for the property so as to obtain the correct permits prior to beginning construction. The zoning officer can be reached at 937-596-6279.

Nutrition Services begins new breakfast program in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The year 2017 marks the 21st year of serving the community with hot lunchtime meals for Nutrition Services of Shelby County.

"In 2016 we provided over 40,000 meals to senior citizens in their homes and at our congregate sites," said Director Connie Wright.

Her report continues:

The Home Delivered Meal Program has three routes that provide a hot meal Monday through

Friday to all of Shelby County. Last year we logged 40,000 miles. This program enables senior citizens to remain independent and living in their own homes. Our program is much more than just a hot meal. Our drivers are a "friendly face" and many times are the only contact with the outside world each day. They also provide a daily check on the clients' well-being. We have been the ones that alert families to problems such as increased confusion or

a decline in their loved one's health. We have called 911 to dispatch EMT's for critical issues.

If you are looking for a useful gift for a homebound senior (ages 60 and up) please contact us. We can provide short-term or long-term meals. Consider contacting us if you are a homebound senior and are finding it hard to provide for your nutritional needs. For short term use, this is a valuable service when returning home from a surgery or therapy. It can

simplify the transition back to independent living.

Nutrition Services also has four Congregate Meal sites. All of these meal sites are for those over the age of 60 (and spouse). One site is located at the Senior Center of Sidney & Shelby County. Anyone over the age of 60 can join us for lunch on Monday through Friday, starting at 11 a.m. (membership to the Senior Center is not required.)

Our second site is

located at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Botkins. Lunch is served on Tuesdays at approximately noon. Our third congregate site, "Maple Leaf Diner," is located at Fair Haven. This site provides a meal for those visitors age 60 who may be visiting a loved one at Fair Haven and wish to share a meal with them.

Our newest site is a voucher program that began in Sept., 2016, at Clancy's Restaurant. Vouchers are distrib-

uted by Nutrition Services and they can be redeemed at Clancy's for a choice of four senior breakfasts.

In 2016 we were also pleased to provide a senior breakfast during the Shelby County Fair.

Any business, civic organization or church that would be willing to host one of these sites in your area in Shelby County, call Fair Haven 937-492-6900 and ask for the Nutrition Services Coordinator Darlene Prater.



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Historic Sidney Theatre's transformation continues in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

Sidney, Ohio—Raise the Roof for the Arts (RTR) had a transformative 2016. The vision to transform the Historic Sidney Theatre is happening right now, and soon the iconic landmark will not only be a first class facility in which to experience the arts, but a gathering place for the community.



Barr

combined gift to update the SIDNEY marquee. The marquee was removed in December and taken to Wagner Electric Sign Company in Elyria, Ohio for full reconstruction. RTR looks forward to spring 2017 when the marquee is complete and adorning the building once again.

"From the very beginning, Raise the Roof for the Arts made a conscious decision to address the theater's infrastructure as well as the cosmetic needs of the building," said Sarah Barr, Executive Director of RTR. "Most improvements to date been behind the scenes, going forward updates will be center stage for the community to see."

Her report continues: Currently, plans are underway to upgrade the buildings windows and exterior doors along with renovations to the inner lobby, concession area, restrooms, auditorium, stage lighting and sound.

Once renovations are complete, the Historic Sidney Theatre will be used for a variety of events including live stage performances by local and professional tour companies, concerts, classic films, corporate meetings, workshops, weddings and many other community



"Puttin' on the Glitz" champagne luncheon/fashion show was one of the fundraisers held in 2016 to assist with the theatre's renovation. This year's even will be held Sunday, May 7, at the Oaks Banquet Facility.

events. It is projected that the Historic Sidney Theatre will hold around 20 to 25 events annually.

In Ohio, the Arts are an economic driver in many communities. According to a study conducted by Bowling Green State University, the Arts:

- Generate more than \$8 Billion in employee wages
- Generate more than \$2.4 Billion in state and local tax revenues
- Contribute more

than \$23 Billion to Ohio's economy

- Supports nearly 200,000 jobs in Ohio

Using the American for the Arts calculator, the Historic Sidney Theatre anticipates a yearly economic impact to the community around \$12,000. This statistic indicated that on average, for every ticket purchased to an event at the Historic Sidney Theatre, an additional \$22.50 is spent locally. These

facts provide a real impact for the Shelby County community.

While construction continues, the RTR Events Committee has been busy establishing new programs within the organization. Raise the Roof for the Arts will host their second annual "Puttin' on the Glitz" champagne luncheon/fashion show on Sunday, May 7, at the Oaks Banquet facility. RTR looks forward to working alongside local

arts groups to create "Set the Stage" a theater day camp for ages 8-16, and the DP&L Foundation continues to partner with RTR to provide the community with Summer Nights Classic Film Series June 7 to Aug. 12.

For more up to date information about the Historic Sidney Theatre, visit sidneytheatre.org or call (937)498-1921. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 9 to 4 p.m.

DayBreak Adult Day Services name change complete

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Adult Day Services of Shelby County (ADS) is now known as DayBreak Adult Day Services.

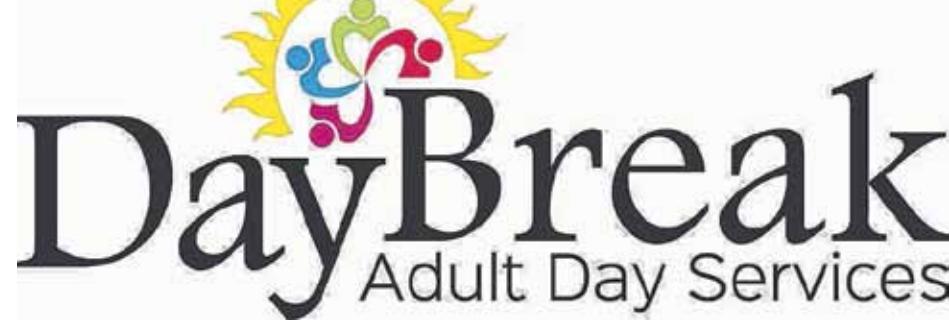
"This name change was completed in 2016 and emphasizes the main purpose of the program, to provide a much needed 'break' to caregivers and those they care for," said Robin Burleson, LSW, director. "DayBreak helps the citizens of Shelby County maintain their quality of life and for many their continued independence by enhancing socialization and wellness. DayBreak strives to maintain the health and well-being of our clients both physically and mentally by assessing each person individually to determine their needs and then implement plans to meet those needs. One of the best ways to describe the program is that it is

a social program with a medical component."

Her report continues:

The clients receiving services at DayBreak can be anyone ages 18 and over, most are over the age of 60 and come from a variety of backgrounds. The program is a safe alternative for those that may be home bound otherwise and can benefit from the social stimulation. Since 2013 DayBreak has held a contract with the Veteran's Administration to provide services to area Veteran's and in 2016 services to Veteran's continued to be provided through this collaboration with the Dayton VAMC. Veterans approved under the contract are able to receive services free of charge or for a small co-pay.

DayBreak continues to be a resource that families or caregivers can use to assist them in the care of their loved one.



The DayBreak program is a safe environment for individuals to spend the day while their caregiver works, runs errands and simply rests, or takes care of themselves. The DayBreak program continues to provide a cost effective means to maintain a loved one's independence at home through the sliding scale fee based on income. A conservative estimate of the average cost of privately paying to have a home service visit from an agency is approximately \$22 per hour

versus the DayBreak cost which averages less than \$7 per hour for an 8 hour day.

Therapy services are available, with the therapy department offering physical, occupational and speech therapy. Breakfast, lunch and snacks are served daily. Nursing staff assists in coordinating any needed medical attention and monitoring health needs by monitoring vital signs, blood sugar and assisting with medications. Assistance is provided for those needing

help with eating, grooming and hygiene.

DayBreak offers a wide variety of activities that are designed to be both fun and functional. These activities include exercise programs, games, educational programs, entertainment, field trips and shopping just to name a few. In 2016 we were honored to be awarded an appreciation award from Catholic Social Services for many years of partnership with them in providing services to older adults through the Passport

program. Clients are transported door to door daily through a continued partnership with the city of Sidney, Shelby Public Transit. Medical transportation is also provided for those that may have medical appointments during the day of attendance at DayBreak. We operate Monday through Friday and participants can choose the days they wish to attend.

We are often asked about who is right for the program and the best way to determine that is to contact us to arrange a complimentary day where the DayBreak staff can assess the individual, answer questions and offer the opportunity for the individual and their loved one to evaluate the program for themselves. To learn more about the DayBreak Adult Day Service Program contact the center staff or myself at 937-492-8074.



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Downtown Business Association has busy year

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Downtown Business Association (DBA) had a progressive and eventful 2016. Over 20 events and activities were held and the DBA worked with individuals and other organizations to bring events to the downtown area.

"New businesses opened and we saw the most successful Shop Small Saturday and holiday shopping season in years," said Amy Breinich, Sidney Alive executive director.

Her report continues:

It is always delightful to see community members come together at the Great Sidney Farmer's Market, enjoy music, food, games and more at any of our events or gathering at their favorite downtown business. None of this would have been possible without our generous sponsors and community support. It is a wonderful feeling to know that our sponsors support our mission and vision for a better Downtown Sidney and in turn, a better Sidney and Shelby County. Thank you to the city of Sidney, Sidney Body CarStar, Advanced Composites, Alvetro Orthodontics, Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, Primary EyeCare Associates, Ron & Nita's, Shelby County Focus, Shelby County Veteran's Services, Sidney City Schools, Sidney Manufacturing, Inc.,

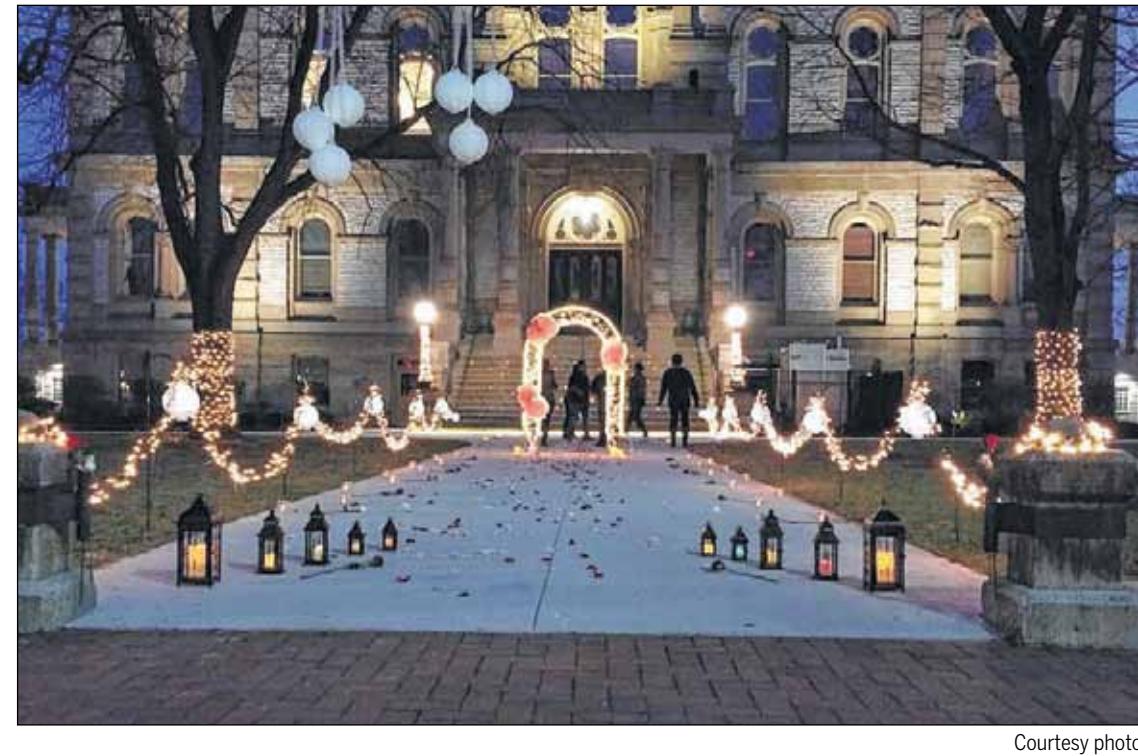


Breinich

Sidney-Shelby County Visitor's Bureau, Sidney-Shelby County YMCA, Spherion Staffing Services, Air Handling Equipment, Inc., Big Hammer Contracting, LLC., The Community Foundation of Shelby County, Creative Marketing Strategies, Emerson Climate Technologies, The Floor Store, Holiday Inn Express, The Ivy Garland, McCrate & Delate CPAs, Mutual Federal Savings Bank, Nationwide Insurance (Eilerman Insurance Agency), NKTelco, S & S Management, Inc., Sell, Hagemann, Zimmerman Co., LPASs, Vance and Linda Stewart, US Bank and Wilson Health.

Over the last 15-plus years, the DBA operated under the oversight of the Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce. Following considerable thought and planning, the DBA was dissolved as an operating department of the Chamber at the close of 2016 and transitioned into a stand-alone 501c3 organization, Sidney Alive. The mission of Sidney Alive is "to nurture the growth of downtown Sidney while preserving our resources, increasing accessibility and benefitting the Shelby County community." Sidney Alive will focus on advocacy, marketing, events and activities and resource development.

Today, downtowns are filling a special niche: to be places where people can have an active, convenient lifestyle.



The Shelby County Courthouse was transformed into a winter wonderland for the Christmas season.

Courtesy photo

Creating that place is integral to attracting investment as well as retaining and creating jobs because more businesses are locating and expanding where people want to be – and people want to be in vibrant, diverse cities where they can live, work, play, and learn within walkable distances. The future belongs to those municipalities and citizens that take urban revitalization seriously. Individuals and families are looking for a place that provides them with creative office spaces, urban living options, walkability, unique boutiques, and great restaurants.

Revitalized, mixed-use buildings that provide great living spaces, professional, retail and food establishments are the future of your downtown Sidney. This requires both private and public organizations to work together to find the funding and best practices to make it happen. Sidney Alive is happy to work with the city of Sidney, Shelby County Commissioners, state of Ohio and the Federal Government to do our part in securing the future of Sidney and Shelby County. Together, our community can work together to take a cutting-

edge approach to planning the renaissance of our historic Downtown Sidney and the beautiful spaces within it.

You can find information about Sidney Alive and downtown Sidney on our website (SidneyAlive.org) or on our social media (Facebook and Instagram). If you are interested in the volunteer and financial support opportunities available or more information about our organization, please feel free to contact me at 937-658-6945 or amy@SidneyAlive.org. Thank you for your continued support and positivity.

Donations assist Wilson Health Foundation

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — As Wilson Health looks forward to a new year, the Foundation Board of Trustees and staff gratefully acknowledge all who have donated resources over the years to develop facilities and services to meet the ongoing health needs of the community.

The Wilson Health Foundation received consistent and exceptionally generous support in 2016, which assisted in achieving revenues of \$487,795.

"The outstanding result of the Foundation's 1930 Club annual giving program alone is testimony to the goodwill and concern of the people of Shelby County and resulted in nearly \$62,660 in 2016. People want to give, and choose to support local charities closer to home where they can see the direct benefits that their hard-earned dollars bring to them and their families," said Bonnie Faulkner, executive director.

In 2016, the Wilson Health Foundation welcomed a new addition to its team. Karla Young serves as assistant direc-



Faulkner

tor of the Foundation. Prior to joining Wilson Health, Karla served as the director of development for the Getty College of Arts and Sciences at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio. Her professional experience also includes serving as the director of stewardship for The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in Columbus, Ohio. Young holds a master's degree from the University of Dayton along with a Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio Northern University.

Partnerships established for the future

Five new trustees, Barri Grandey, Mickey Hamer, Tom Martin, Brandon Simon and Mike Watkins were elected to the Wilson Health Foundation Board for a three-year term of office. Officers include: Vance Stewart, chair; Tony Arnold, vice chair/chair-elect; Tom Middleton, secretary/treasurer; and Faulkner who continues as executive director.

Planned giving remains the focus of the Wilson Health Foundation. The Wilson Society, established to honor those who include Wilson Health in their estate plans, continues

to grow, with 71 members to date.

Donor support

The annual golf outing netted over \$43,500 in 2016. The 2016 charity ball resulted in a net revenue of nearly \$27,000 thanks to committee members Scarlet Francis, Melissa McDonald, Beth Roe, Jackie Simpson and Kiera Sullivan.

Hospice donations totaled \$79,002 including \$26,338 from the Caring at Christmas program, as well as \$5,635 from Light Up a Life event.

Grants totaling \$1,400 were received from the Monarch Legacy Fund of the Community Foundation. Gifts specifically restricted by the donor in the amount of \$111,400, were received from the Betty Z. Bennett Fund, Emerson Climate Technologies, Inc., Turkeyfoot and the Wilson Memorial Hospital Auxiliary among others.

Angel Fund

The Angel Fund assists Wilson Hospice patients and their caregivers with an immediate need and is specifically intended to improve the quality of life for patients who are living with life-limiting illness. Donations to the Angel Fund

totaled nearly \$12,540 in 2016, including donations from the Newport Sportsmen Club, Catholic War Veterans, the Scott Arnold Memorial Golf Scramble as well as individual donors.

Education for our community

Two estate planning seminars were offered in 2016 at no charge to members of the community.

In April 2016, local residents

were invited to attend a basic estate planning seminar presented by Ralph Keister and Craig Albers, with the law firm Faulkner, Garmhausen, Keister & Shenk on a variety of topics including, what comprises an estate, different forms of property ownership and what is means to an estate. They also provided important documents helps in the event of future disability, common forms of planning such as wills and trusts and the consequences to a family if no will is prepared.

In September 2016, local residents

were invited to attend the estate planning seminar, "Retirement 101: Getting Ready Today for Life Tomorrow" presented by Cindy Helman, RFC® Registered Financial Consultant and partner,

Money Concepts, and John

Boeckman, CPA, President and Managing Partner, with Monnier & Company, CPA's.

The educational seminars were a collaborative effort sponsored by the Community Foundation, Dorothy Love Retirement Community, YMCA Foundation, Lehman Foundation, and the Wilson Health Foundation.

2017 at a glance

This year marks eighty-seven years of service to the Sidney and Shelby County community. Year after year, Wilson Health continues to evolve as a result of our dedicated community support.

In November 2016, the Wilson Health Board of Trustees approved plans to move toward the establishment of a cancer treatment center in Sidney. The Wilson Health Foundation will endorse this initiative.

This is an exciting step forward for not only Wilson Health, but our entire community.

As we approach the development of a cancer care service line, it is imperative that we seek the knowledge, guidance and support of our community. Together, we will work towards improving the health of Shelby County.



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Work continues on new JC school

For the Sidney Daily News

JACKSON CENTER — The year 2016 offered a new set of challenges for the Jackson Center School District.

"Over the course of the past 12 months, our teachers and staff spent a great deal of time continuing to work with their students, improving their academic and social skills, but additionally a great deal of time has been spent planning for the future with a new school building," said Superintendent Willian Reichert. "The replacement of our 1928, 1954 and partial replacement of our 1965 additions has been a top priority over the course of 2016. The Jackson Center community commissioned us with constructing a school that will not only replace the traditional features of our older buildings, but will also carry us into the future with a modern, flexible space for staff and students. The new school will feature



Reichert

a media center, band room, gymnasium, cafeteria, stage, vocational/agriculture learning area, a new family and consumer science room, pre-k-6 classrooms and offices."

His report continues:

Every attempt was made to design a new school that complements the addition completed in 2003 while taking into account all the changes in technology and student learning styles that have changed over the past 15 years. The building project also includes renovations to the remaining 1965, 1981 and 2003 additions as well as improvements to the grounds surrounding the buildings. We have been very blessed to team with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, Freytag and Associates, Peterson Construction and many other local businesses on this project and look forward to our public getting a chance to visit and use the facility. The new building project is currently on schedule



Courtesy photo

Construction continues a new building is built for Jackson Center Local Schools. The new school will feature a media center, band room, gymnasium, cafeteria, stage, vocational/agriculture learning area, a new family and consumer science room, pre-k-6 classrooms and offices.

with a completion date sometime this summer with the renovations to the 1965, 1981 and 2003 additions to follow in the fall.

In addition to the building project, the plan to start a 1 to 1 computer to student program and provide more "hands-on," practical applications both inside

and outside the building will continue into 2017. Fortunately, our general fund remained healthy over the past year due to a positive local and state economy and some fiscal reduction opportunities within the district. The general fund along with some private individuals and organizations will hopefully help us

complete the parts of the building project that the state does not co-fund and accomplish all of our other education initiatives.

Continued academic success and progress towards completion of our building project will make 2017 a year full of great challenges and promise for Jackson

Center Schools. The administrative team, in cooperation with the teaching staff and parents, will be focusing on the continued growth and progress of all students no matter how diverse their abilities may be.

We will do this by:

1. Providing a safe, friendly environment filled with high expectations that parents and students will recognize as soon as they enter the building.

2. Partnering with the village of Jackson Center and local businesses to provide opportunities for students to explore their varied interests.

3. Continuing to monitor the academic growth of students as well as their development into contributing members of society.

4. Ensuring that our staff is prepared for the challenges that come with educating students in the 21st century.

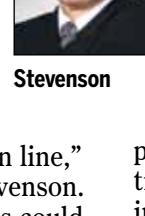
Please visit our webpage at www.jackson-center.k12.oh.us to discover all that Jackson Center schools has to offer.

Common Pleas Court enters digital age

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Over the last several years, The Shelby County Common Pleas Court, with the assistance of Michele Mumford, Shelby County's Clerk of Courts, has been moving in to the digital age.

"It started several years ago with providing access to most court records including images of court documents on line," said Judge James Stevenson. "Attorneys and parties could view those court records from the convenience of their offices or homes 24/7. The last piece is now in place with the implementation of electronic filing. E-filing was started on



Stevenson

a voluntary basis in the fall of 2016 and became mandatory effective January 1, 2017 for civil cases including domestic. Some criminal filings are now being accepted on a voluntary basis and we expect that will become mandatory some time in 2017."

His report continues:

Just as putting images of court records on line permitted access to those records 24/7 e-filing now permits attorneys and parties to file pleadings electronically from anywhere with internet access at any time of the day or night. For individuals who do not have internet access the clerk hopes to have a workstation in the clerk's office available during business hours. Although the

work station is not currently available we hope to have it in place within the next few months.

The court and the clerk are still developing e-filing procedures and we have had some glitches as can be expected with any new process, but we believe that in the end digital records and e-filing will better serve the attorneys and public in accessing and using the court.

The year 2016 was another busy one for both the general and the domestic relations division. In the general division, 285 cases were pending at the beginning of 2016. A total of 613 new cases were added during the year and 637 cases were resolved. We had 265 cases still pending at the end of 2016. Although

we did have a number of foreclosures filed during the year there has been a significant drop since the years immediately following the Great Recession.

There were 310 new criminal cases filed in 2016. Unfortunately, the trend continues that most criminal cases are related in some manner to drugs. Either the criminal offense is a drug possession or trafficking case or the criminal conduct results from drug abuse. Many theft related offenses result from the efforts of drug abusers to obtain funds to purchase drugs. Crimes of violence are often associated with drug abuse. This court is constantly looking for means to combat the drug problem whether it be through intensive drug

programs or half way houses. Unfortunately, there comes a time when the court runs out of alternatives and the only recourse available to the court is some form of incarceration.

In the domestic relations division there were 287 new or re-opened cases during the year. There were 82 cases pending at the end of 2016. Magistrate Gary Carter held 371 hearings during the year and 129 people attended the required parenting program for those involved in custody proceedings.

As we enter this new year the court will continue to look for ways to improve our services to the citizens of this community. We look forward to another busy year serving the justice needs of the county.

4-H program has busy, successful year

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Shelby County 4-H program has had another successful and exciting year.

"Our enrollment was up again," said Judie Gaerke.

"We had about 1,000 youth members and adult volunteers from Shelby County partici-

pate in our 4-H program. We are very lucky to have our wonderful volunteers and thank them for their service."

Her report continues

Shelby County Junior Fair Board are busy coordinating for next year's fair.

Shelby County Camp coun-

selsors are going through their training and planning for this

summer's 4-H Camp.

Our Extension office in cooperation with Judge William Zimmerman, has started a CARTEENS program that meets every other month. 4-H CARTEENS is a traffic safety program conducted for juvenile traffic offenders. The goals of 4-H CARTEENS are to reduce the number of

repeat juvenile traffic offenders, decrease the number of teen traffic offenders, and increase teen awareness of traffic/vehicular safety. We have already had 68 participants in the past six months.

Our office is currently in the process of acquiring a new 4-H educator. We hope to welcome a new staff member

soon.

Please visit our website at shelby.osu.edu to see what we are up to.

If we can help you or if you have any questions, contact our office at 937-498-7239.

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Wilson Health meets county's ongoing health needs

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Wilson Health continues to find itself poised for continued growth and opportunities to meet the ongoing health needs of the community. Independent health systems like Wilson Health enjoy some distinct advantages over larger systems including lower cost structure, strategic agility and proximity to our customers.

"In order to maintain the success of our independent health system, we must focus on what we do well; providing local services within our scope, facilitating access to high-end specialty care, and serving the healthcare continuum – education, prevention, diagnosis and treatment," said Mark Dooley, president and CEO.

As an independent health system, Wilson Health understands the importance of partnering with other hospitals and health systems to provide the highest possible quality of care for their patients. "We must embrace the right partnerships," says Dooley. "Partnerships are no longer a choice, but a necessity. Partnership does not mean acquisition. Ideal partnerships include providing all services within our scope locally, seamless transition to a larger system for advanced care, and patients receiving access to the right care, at the right place, at the right time," adds Dooley.

Leading the way is a 15 member Board of Trustees volunteering their time and expertise toward improving the organization. The trustees are: Devon Beer, Janice Benanzer, Andy Counts (secretary), Stan Crosley (chair), John Deeds, Mark Dooley, Chuck Edelen, Rudy Keister (vice-chair), Dave Monnier (treasur-



Dooley

er), Ken Monnier, Eric Prenger, Tom Sheehan, Tonya Theiman, Bob Wheeler and Priscilla Wilt.

Report continues:

Financial and service summary
Wilson Health's financial performance continues to provide a means to add new programs, services, equipment and technology to better diagnose and treat disease as well as promote health and wellness.

Wilson Health is the area's preferred healthcare provider and contributes significant financial resources to the area. Sitting at the number four spot amongst top employers in Shelby County, Wilson Health employs over 800 people and provides over \$90 million in direct economic benefits to the area.

In 2016, Wilson Health provided over \$7 million in care for patients who either had no means to pay or met the qualifications for charity care.

In 2016, Wilson Health provided inpatient care for 3,049 patients. The emergency department experienced high patient volumes and for the first time treated over 30,000 patients. Wilson Health also performed:

- 4,568 surgical procedures
- 16,571 occupational health patient visits
- 4,030 urgent care visits
- 37,231 cardiopulmonary and sleep lab procedures
- 57,475 imaging procedures
- 318,92 laboratory tests
- 28,223 home care and hospice visits

In addition, 701 babies were born in The Cope-land-Emerson Family Birth Center.

Key providers join medical team

Wilson Health continually recruits physicians and other providers

to grow and enhance its medical staff. This initiative is critical in meeting the needs of the community. In 2016, 8 key providers joined the medical staff in a variety of specialty areas:

- Rabia Akbar, Pediatrics
- Michael "Mick" Beyer, Family Medicine
- Chad Boberg, CNP, Occupational Medicine
- Ryan Clark, Cardiology
- Megan Hoying, CNP, Family Medicine
- Atiba Jackson, Orthopedics
- Dawn Macke, CNP, Family Medicine
- Rosemary McCarthy, Ob/Gyn

Wilson Health Medical Group

The Wilson Health Medical Group (WHMG) continues to grow. With 38 providers, the hospital-owned medical group offers comprehensive healthcare services in family medicine, internal medicine, OB/GYN, endocrinology, ENT, and pediatrics. The physicians and certified nurse practitioners of WHMG offer convenient care with offices located in Sidney, Fort Loramie/Minster, Jackson Center, Anna and Botkins.

In 2016, the Thomas Boecker Professional Building opened its doors. The 48,000 square foot medical building is the home to 21 Sidney-based family medicine, internal medicine, ob/gyn and pediatric Wilson Health Medical Group providers. The new medical building is located on the Wilson Health campus and was designed specifically with patients and families in mind.

In January, Wilson Health opened a new After Hours Clinic located in the Professional Building. The clinic is staffed by experienced medical providers of Wilson Health Medical Group and treats patients with minor illnesses and injuries. The After Hours Clinic is open Monday



The Thomas Boecker Professional Building features a pediatric waiting room on the second floor.

through Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointments are necessary.

Establishing a healthier community

Wilson Health supports and works with a variety of like-minded community agencies and organizations to collaborate and impact the health needs in the community. Some of those organizations include:

- Sidney-Shelby County Health Department
- Shelby County School Systems
- Sidney Police Department
- Shelby County Sheriff Department
- Sidney-Shelby County YMCA
- Local Colleges/Universities
- Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce
- American Heart Association
- American Cancer Society
- Life Connection of Ohio
- County and Municipal Governments
- Area Churches and Faith Based Organizations
- Sidney-Shelby County Senior Center
- Shelby County Jobs and Family Services
- Sidney-Shelby County United Way
- POWER – Women's Initiative

Compassionate Care of Shelby County

Sidney – Pregnancy Resource Center

Shelby County Community Service Council

Shelby County Counseling Center

Samaritan Works Inc.

Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services

Community Blood Center-Community Tissue Services

Sidney-Shelby County Health Department

Sidney Police Department

Sidney-Shelby County YMCA

Local Colleges/Universities

Sidney-Shelby County Chamber of Commerce

American Heart Association

American Cancer Society

Life Connection of Ohio

County and Municipal Governments

Area Churches and Faith Based Organizations

Sidney-Shelby County Senior Center

Shelby County Jobs and Family Services

Sidney-Shelby County United Way

POWER – Women's Initiative

Board of Trustees has approved plans to move toward the establishment of a cancer treatment center. In 2015, Wilson Health acquired 24.5 acres of land along Vandemark Road in Sidney.

With easy accessibility off of I-75, the land is an ideal location for future expansion including a potential cancer treatment facility.

In 2017, Wilson Health will focus their efforts on developing plans to offer cancer care services locally. For the past 2 years, Wilson Health conducted feasibility studies and determined there is a strong need and desire to provide cancer care services in the community.

The volunteers at Wilson Health are a wonderfully diverse group of people within the community who donate their time and talents to make a difference in the lives of patients and their families. In 2016, 120 Auxiliary members donated 15,048 hours of their time and \$7,000 to the hospital. Sixteen Student Volunteers offered 147.75 hours of their time in patient care departments and assisted with several health/wellness activities and community related events.

The Shelby County Ministerial Association and members of the Chaplaincy Program provided spiritual services. Forty-six Hospice volunteers provided over 2,000 hours of assistance to hospice patients and their families.

We need to address cancer in our community. Now more than ever, our independence is critical in order to continue to provide value and the ability to make local decisions that impact the health and wellness of Shelby County and surrounding areas.

Community support has allowed us to be where we are today, and continued support will carry us into the future.

Gateway Lodge gives back to the community

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016 the Sidney Shelby County Gateway Lodge 138 has continued to support the community by making donations to several organizations throughout Sidney and Shelby County.

"Our largest event of the year is always Shop with a Cop," said Warren Melerine,

treasurer. "Each year we gather donations from the residents and businesses of Shelby County and we have the pleasure of taking approximately 75 children shopping at Walmart in Sidney. Each child is given \$150 to spend on clothing, personal items and some sort of game or toy."

His report continues:

This year we also made our second installment of three for \$5,000 to New Choices for the renovations that are going on at their facility.

Other donations included:

- 10 \$500 Fraternal Order of Police Scholarships
- Local sports teams \$1250
- Sidney Dance Company, \$250
- Shelby County DARE,

\$1,000

- Sidney Police Department Safety Town Program, \$1,000
- Community dinners,

\$1,500

- Shelby County Fair, \$500
- Girl Scouts, \$500
- YMCA Special Needs Cheerleading Team, \$2,500

We also had families in Shelby County that had fam-

ily emergencies in 2016 and a total of \$2,000 was donated to those families for emergency assistance.

Again we would like to thank the citizens of Sidney and Shelby County for your continued support, without the communities support none of this would be possible. A total of \$35,200 was given back to the community.

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Volunteers vital to Alpha Community Center's success

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Alpha Community Center spent 2016 with continued emphasis on financial viability.

"Quality programs and consistent marketing strategies designed to increase our name recognition throughout the community remain in place," said Jan Geuy, executive director. "Again this year, we prioritized our Holiday Campaign as our primary annual fundraiser."

Her report continues:

In 2016, our marketing/public relations strategy continued to focus on financial viability and staying involved with important community issues that affect our clients and at risk families. In December the Alpha



Geuy

Community Center assumed a new role as location for the community's Warming Center. The Warming Center provides warm shelter for the night as well as a meal, and breakfast the following morning. Volunteers man the Center, providing supervision and safety for those sheltered. Our volunteers remain crucial to providing the services we offer, giving over 6100 hours annually. The Alpha Community Center has flourished in 2016, expanding with the purchase of the property surrounding us to the east. Blessed with adequate resources, we are able to continue the programs and services so critical to the well being of those we serve.

The Alpha Center serves the community in four main ways: served

meals, emergency pantry, children's programming and emergency rent/utility payments. The community support of our meal program has been huge. I view it as one of the most vital services we offer. No other agency in Shelby County provides meal service at the level of the Alpha Center/Holy Angels Soup Kitchen. The Alpha Community Center continues to be blessed with amazing community partners. Honda of America, Emerson Climate Technologies, US Bancorp and the Community Foundation of Shelby County contribute generous grants, as well as Sidney First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and many other churches and individuals.

With funds provided by the Shelby County United Way, we were

again able to assist local families with rent and utility payments in 2016. For Christmas, our families received turkeys and other food and gift items, all donated by a generous community. During 2016, the emergency pantry assisted 639 households with canned goods, diapers, personal care items, blankets, hats, gloves and formula. The Alpha Community Center is a safe, clean environment for the children enrolled in our After School and Summer Programs. Our children, ages 6-17 years, enjoy supervised games, snacks, field trips, and Christian summer camp at Camp Union. The compassion of our donors that have a heart for the Alpha Center make our ministry possible, keeping it strong and community oriented.

In 2016 the Alpha Center Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Chairwoman Emily Neu, remained focused on financial stability and setting viable goals to move us forward into 2017. The Alpha Community Center Fund at the Community Foundation of Shelby County continues to offer emergency support for our operations while providing a foundation for economic growth. We intend to secure the Alpha Center's financial future both through effective, successful fundraising and the prudent management of any cash reserves. Our Vision Committee will concentrate on establishing appropriate priorities, reevaluating strengths, and considering potential areas where services might expand. This process keeps us relevant,

prepared, ready to accommodate increased demands, and current in pertinent policy. Our plan for 2017 continues to focus on the fundraising process, supporting those we serve, strengthening our community and implementing Board targeted goals, marketing and services.

Most of our programming focuses on basic physical needs, but equally important is the giving of knowledge, thereby, hope. The Alpha Community Center is positioned to remain a viable asset to this community. Our Board of Trustees remains dedicated to our successful operation. By offering basic services in unique ways, we live into our mission to teach, nourish and transform with solutions for today and hope for tomorrow.

SMHA continues to serve Shelby County residents

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Shelby Metropolitan Housing Authority (SMHA) is a rental assistance agency that has been serving Shelby County for more than 30 years.



Wells

housing. The SMHA administers the following programs:

The Low-Rent Public Housing Program owns and manages 175 apartments at the following complexes: Hilltop Manor and Hewitt Villa (80), Mount Vernon (20), Jackson Towers (50 elderly), and Shelby Manor (25). We assisted 54 new families this year. Occupancy averaged 98 percent for the year. All families must meet income eligibility and family composition.

The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program provides rental assistance to families who meet the guidelines to rent through a private landlord on the open market in Shelby County and receive rental

subsidy based on their income. The selected unit must pass a housing quality standard inspection. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord behalf of the participating family. The family is responsible for the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Currently the housing authority is assisting 219 families and has 151 landlords who participate in this program. There were 267 families helped in 2016.

SMHA has partnered with the city of Sidney and Shelby County to administer a Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) with funds from the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) that they received. We are currently assisting

60 families for this 18 month round of funding.

Veteran Affairs Supporting Housing (VASH) helps chronically homeless Veterans with long term housing provided by the SMHA Section 8 Voucher program, intensive case management provided by the Dayton VA, and community support. HUD has awarded Shelby County 12 HUD-VASH vouchers based on geographic need and public housing agency administrative performance. We assisted 10 Veterans families in 2016.

SMHA participates in required audits. All financial and managerial requirements have been satisfied. Wells gives credit to all SMHA staff for their positive approach to daily challenges. Credit is also given to the SMHA

Board of Directors: Jan Geuy, Shyla Goffena, Rufus "Rick" Sims Jr., James Frye and Ernest Williams.

Maintaining our properties and programs has been increasingly difficult in recent years because of economic conditions and shifting federal spending priorities. However we were able to satisfy the 2014 Capital Fund Program (CFP) money by completing the paving of all parking lots at all our complexes in 2016. And the 2016 CFP dollars will be used for driveways and patios at Mount Vernon. Despite the tense political season we have just been through we are all very eager to see whether reform of housing programs and adequate funding will be a priority for our new administration.

Nationally, more people are choosing to rent, and the need for affordable housing is no longer just a low income group problem. The lack of affordable housing adversely impacts economic development, educational achievement, and basic quality of life.

Future projects include the continuation of all programs, and continue to collaborate with the community for emergency housing. In addition, the SMHA and the Shelby County CoC actively participate in the Point-In-Time Study to identify homeless and develop effective plans to address and end homelessness or for those at-risk of becoming homeless.

For more information on the Shelby Metropolitan Housing Authority or its programs, call 937-498-9898.

Income tax supports police, fire, emergency medical, parks, community recreation

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The city of Sidney's permanent 1.5 percent income tax is its primary revenue source sup-



Adams

porting services including police, fire, emergency medical, parks and community recreation. "This portion of Sidney's income tax

generated \$16.7 million in 2016, an 8.8 percent increase over 2015," said Ginger Adams, finance officer. "Of this total, taxes withheld from employees generated \$11.8 million in 2016, an 8.1 percent increase over 2015."

Her report continues:

Most of this increase was due to our larger employers changing

from monthly to semi-monthly remittance, as required by recent state legislation. Excluding this one-time "bump," the growth in withholding collections was nearly 3.1 percent, indicating a steady increase in taxable wages. Taxes collected based on business net profits remain elevated ending 2016 at \$4.9 million, a 10.4 percent increase over 2015. Taxes based on net profits are a volatile

source subject to significant swings from year to year.

Sidney's additional 0.25 percent income tax, dedicated to the repair of Sidney's streets, alleys, bridges, curbs and gutters, generated \$2.8 million in 2016, of which \$2.7 million was spent repairing Sidney's roadways. Over the five-year levy, this tax should generate at least \$13.5 million.

Sidney's 2017 capital budget includes approximately \$4.0 million dedicated to street resurfacing and reconstruction with \$3.5 million of this paid for with street tax levy. Slated for 2017 is the next round of Ohio EPA-required sewer system improvements, as well as the design of many grant-funded road and bridge projects, including state Route 47 guardrail replacement and Park Street Bridge over CSX railroad replacement. North-end Fire Station funding began with \$845,000 committed during 2016.

No doubt planning and design will continue in 2017. Sidney's 2017 operating budget reflects guarded optimism. The 2017 operating budget of \$28.2 million represents a 0.7 percent increase from 2016. As we recover from

the last national recession and loss of state-shared revenues, the city strives to improve service levels negatively impacted when the city reduced staffing by over 37 full-time equivalent positions. Sidney's 2017 budget includes adding back two police officers working peak demand split shifts, an equipment operator to assist with Graceland Cemetery and park projects, and targeted seasonal positions to ease Municipal Court workload, paint water hydrants and provide for increased Shelby Public Transit ridership.

These 2017 reinstatements follow last year's return of seasonal staffing to pre-recession levels, reinstatement of two firefighters designated to work during peak demand periods, and adding a Water Treatment Plant Operator. After these additions, city staffing remains at 90 percent of pre-recession levels.

Utility fee increases are in the 1 percent to 3 percent range. The average family of four should notice roughly a 2.9 percent increase in their utility bill, with the low volume user experiencing approximately a 2.8 percent increase.

You may opt to receive your Sidney util-

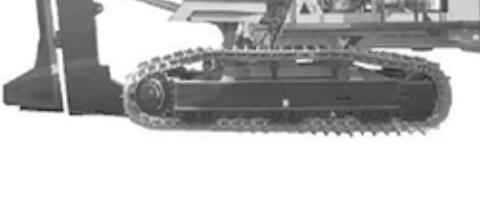
ity bill electronically. You have immediate, 24/7 secure access to your billing information with a 13-month history at your fingertips and its environmentally friendly. To switch, visit www.sidneyoh.com/Utility-Billing and click on the "Receive your Utility Bill by email" link. Create your account using information from your most recent utility statement.

The city is dedicated to providing responsible financial management of its public resources. View Sidney's 2017 budget, audited annual financials, and monthly financials at <http://sidneycityoh.minutesondemand.com/>. Open the "City Financial Information" box on the page's lower-left corner.

Your 2016 Sidney income tax return (or extension) is due no later than April 18, 2017. Forms are available at the city's website (www.sidneyoh.com – News & Events page) or City Hall office at 201 West Poplar open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 8th, to assist you with Sidney return preparation at no charge. (An exemption form is available for retired/disabled residents having no Sidney taxable income.)

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Civil War battles fought at Tawawa Park

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Another great year has come and gone again for the Parks and Recreation Department.

"Many programs, events, and fun were provided in your parks for the community," said Duane Gaier, city of Sidney Parks and Recreation Department director. "One of the most memorable occasions was the Civil War re-enactment held in September. Federal and Confederate soldier re-enactors and their family members traveled from near and far to share with those in attendance what it was like to live in the 1860's. Gunfire, smoke, and the roar of cannon gave the observers in the park a sense of what a battle deep in the woods would have been like during the war that pitted brother against brother."

His report continues:

Parks staff installed two new play structures this past fall. The first, thanks to a donation from Emerson Climate Technologies, was constructed at Baker Range in Tawawa Park. The old play equipment that was removed to make room for the new is believed to have been installed in the 1970's and was in dire need of updating. The new playground offers physical challenges for all ages and is handicap accessible. The second unit was assembled at Berger Park on South Miami Avenue. This addition along with the work that Girl Scout Troop 20690 has completed through the



Gaier



Courtesy photo

Sidney Rotary provided a unique asset to your parks by funding the construction of a beautiful shelter on Bertsch Hill, in Tawawa Park.

Adopt A Park program has improved the appearance, safety and accessibility of the Berger Park.

Parks staff and the city tree contractor removed almost 300 dead ash trees from Tawawa Park last winter. The Emerald Ash Borer is causing the mortality of this stately tree and is devastating the forests across the region. Fortunately for your parks, Dayton Power and Light provided a grant to purchase and plant 90 trees of various varieties. Roadside and Deam Parks received 10 trees each, with the remaining 70 trees placed throughout Tawawa Park to assist with the reforestation of this nature preserve.

The recreation department was busy in 2016 with providing over 8,000 lunches at eight different locations in Sidney for the youth. Thanks to a grant through the Ohio Department of Education, children can receive a hot meal each weekday during the summer. To go along with this program, the recreation staff also gave out over 3,700 weekend meals to these kids. This program is 100% funded by grants and donations from businesses, individuals and philanthropic organizations.

Swimming lessons were again a success in 2016. Sidney Water Park lifeguards worked with 227 participants of varying skill levels to

improve their abilities and increase their confidence in and around water. This training helps during the rest of the pool season by reducing the number of rescues required by the lifeguards.

There were ten new recreation clinics last year. Two of the more popular were, Book and Game Swap and Touch A Truck. Book and Game Swap allowed the participant to exchange their book or game with someone else and Touch a Truck allowed the kids to look at and get into trucks provided by Ratermann Construction and the city's underground utilities and street departments. There were 896 partic-

ipants in all of the recreation programs last year.

Sidney Rotary provided a unique asset to your parks by funding the construction of a beautiful shelter on Bertsch Hill, in Tawawa Park. The shelter was designed to be different from any other structure in the city's park system. Large cedar timber construction with vaulted ceiling and masonry detail around the base of the supporting columns make this shelter a desired location for reunions, weddings and birthday parties. The dedication of the shelter was held on May 23, 2016, with many Rotarians and Sidney dignitaries in attendance.

Fairlawn Schools welcomes new superintendent, principal

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Many changes occurred in the Fairlawn Local Schools during the 2015-16 school year.

Superintendent Steve Mascho announced his retirement in February after 17 years as the Jet's leader. As well, longtime Principal Jo DeMotte left the district for a supervisor position with the Educational Service Center.

Fairlawn introduced Jeff Hobbs as its new superintendent in the spring. Hobbs, a Sidney resident, had been the high school principal at Fort Recovery in Mercer County for the last seven years. Assistant Principal Rebekka Egbert was elevated to high school principal and former Sidney Middle School Principal John Stekli was hired by the district as its new K-8 principal. Stekli had most recently been the middle school principal at Xenia. The district also added Mike Henman to its Board of Education as a new member. Henman is a Fairlawn graduate and a lifelong district resident.

Superintendent Jeff Hobbs' report continues:

The district remains financially stable even in tough budgetary times. Unlike most districts, Fairlawn ended the 2015-16 campaign with an ample carryover and a five-year forecast showing black numbers throughout. Even with the solid financial outlook, the district remains fiscally



Hobbs

responsible to its taxpayers. Fairlawn continues to maintain outstanding facilities that rival any in the area. A track/soccer press box is being planned by the district.

This addition will help the outdoor facility sound system and concession accessibility.

Fairlawn held the SCAL track meet in the spring entertaining large crowds, while being an excellent host to our county rivals. The Jets will again host the league track meet in the spring of 2017. The district's new press box will be a huge help in this

event.

Fairlawn adopted a theme for the year to enhance school spirit. Activities from bigtime wrestling, outdoor bonfire, Spirit Fridays and Pizza with the Principal to name a few were added with great results. Community engagement was a focus for Fairlawn to allow people outside the school to see our terrific students, staff and facilities. A tutoring program was initiated by the guidance department featuring many retired educators, focusing on reading and math in the lower grades.

Fairlawn created an Adopt-A-Family pro-

gram during the holiday season. This outreach allowed many students to enjoy Christmas gifts and food that would not have been possible otherwise. Finances were raised through several fund raising initiatives.

The Fairlawn FFA had another banner year winning numerous contests, doing many volunteer service projects and attending state and national convention. State FFA Degrees were earned by Katie Bensman, Beth Weigendt and Paige Vondenhuevel, while American Degrees were garnered by Olivia Hageman and Robert Hageman.

Open enrollment continues to be a big part of the Fairlawn equation. The staff at Fairlawn is welcoming and friendly to those who choose to attend. Several new staff members joined the Fairlawn Team this school year. Dustin Woods (grades 5-6), April Sommer (elementary intervention), Jo Peters (Title 1), Luciano Tacuri (Spanish) and Karen McRill (elementary guidance) were terrific additions to the Jet Family.

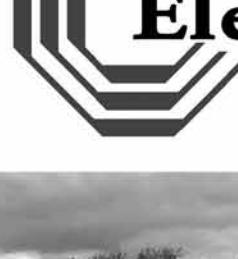
Test scores remain steady with certain areas that were elevated. With plenty of room

for growth, this will be the focus for Jet Nation in the 2017-18 school year. The district finished its 21st Century grant with after school activities for 7-12 grade students including physical fitness, snacks and academic remediation.

Fairlawn hopes to attain the next round of 21st Century grants to continue this after school academic focus in our lower grades.

Fairlawn's focus will continue to be students centered, while creating an environment that has a "Family First" mentality.

The 2017-18 year should be a terrific one in Jet Nation.



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Library expansion, renovation nears completion

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016, groundbreaking took place for the facility expansion and renovation project on the Amos Memorial Public Library located in Sidney. The nearly 12,000 square foot addition is located to the north and includes a second story. Funds for the projected \$4.85 million expansion and renovation have been raised through generous gifts from individuals and area businesses. Through years of being fiscally responsible, the Library Board of Trustees had set aside money for the building and committed \$2.5 million toward the project.

Shelby County Libraries Executive Director



Suzanne Cline was gratified with the board selections.

"The excitement for this project has grown throughout the year. We have heard so many positive comments regarding the look of the new addition. We will be thrilled to move into the new space by the end of February and look forward to a completion date for the entire project in early summer," she said.

Her report continues:

The new space will provide a Community Room, with seating for between 135-150, all new Teen space, a Technology lab and all new Children's area. The current space will be renovated to include small study rooms, a STEM Lab, an additional program space, and a Genealogy/Local History Room. A feature of

the renovated space will include a modern Art Gallery for local artists to continue to be able to display their artwork.

New in 2016, the library added HOOPLA to its database services. This online product provides up to six downloadable audios, ebooks, music items or movies per month per library card holder. The service is free of charge and adds to the wide range of online services the library is now providing. The library continues to provide services on the website, www.shelbyco.lib.oh.us, including the Ohio Digital Library, which also provides downloads for e-books and audio books. The website also houses connections to numerous databases such as Mango Languages, Auto Repair, and Consumer Reports, all of which are provided free of charge



Luke Gronneberg | Sidney Daily News

This is a collection of photos of the Amos Memorial Public Library addition.

to anyone with a Shelby County Libraries card.

In house, the library provides books, movies and music materials for all ages. As a service to our patrons who are unable to leave their homes due to health or other related issues, the library also provides

a home-bound delivery program. Other programs and services include Storytimes, Family Fun nights, Tuesday Movies, Teen Cafe, Tween programs, the Ohio Water Color Show, Inter Library Loan Services, access to Ancestry database and much,

much more.

Shelby County Libraries strives to honor each person's quest for knowledge, information and enjoyment. The Library has locations throughout the county in Anna, Botkins, Fort Loramie, Jackson Center, Sidney and Russia.

Community Services Department has busy year

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The city of Sidney Community Services Department provides a wide variety of professional development and planning services to the citizens of Sidney.

"The Department is responsible for ensuring compliance with city ordinances for the development and continued maintenance of every property in the city, including review and approval of permits, inspections, and enforcement of the city's building, zoning, and property maintenance regulations. Between on-going development, grant administration, and special projects, the Department remained exceptionally busy throughout 2016," said Barbara Dilworth, director.

Her report continues:

Staff reviews proposed development for compliance with



local regulations and presents to the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals as necessary. Staff presented a total of sixteen cases to the

Planning Commission in 2016. The majority of these cases were requests for replats or lot splits. One annexation was accepted in 2016, and the city's zoning map was updated as well. A total of 25 cases were presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals, including conditional uses, variances, and expansion of non-conforming uses: almost triple the number of cases heard in 2015.

Permits

Staff reviews a wide variety of permit applications for compliance with the city's Codified Ordinances. Across the board, the number of permits and the pace of development/ building activity increased notably in 2016.

A total of 550 residential building permits were issued

in 2016. Residential building permits issued include: new residential units (17 permits); additions, porches, and decks, (24 permits); HVAC, electric/gas turn-on, and rewire (445 permits); new garages, accessory buildings and renovations (50 permits); and other permits (14 permits). The number of electric/gas turn-on permits is an increase of over 200 permits, due primarily to Vectren's gas line replacement program. Even removing those permits, the number of building permits issued increased by almost 20 percent over 2015 permits.

Zoning permits issued in 2016 totaled 211 permits. Nineteen site plan permits were issued for new buildings or expansion of commercial or industrial development. In addition, 21 use compliance certificates were issued for new businesses moving into or expanding in an existing building. A total of 86 permits were issued for

permanent and temporary signs, and 85 fence permits were issued. The total number of zoning permits issued increase by 10 percent over 2015.

Enforcement

Staff is charged with ensuring that properties throughout Sidney are in compliance with the rules set forth in the city's Codified Ordinances and the Residential Code of Ohio. Staff inspects property maintenance, signage, occupancy of buildings, and construction activities. They also respond to citizen complaints and inquiries, and administer enforcement actions.

A total of 1,032 violations were addressed in 2016. The greatest number of violations were junk, garbage, and litter (513) with high grass and weed violations following (275). The property owner or occupant corrected 727 (70 percent) of the violations, with the city's contractor correcting the remaining.

Special projects

Staff conducted public forums, steering committee meetings, and surveys as part of the process of updating the city's comprehensive plan, Imagine Sidney 2025. The draft Plan was completed and the review process began, which will continue into early 2017.

2017 outlook

In the upcoming year, the update to the comprehensive plan will be completed. Public review and comment of the draft plan will be conducted, as well as review by the Steering Committee, and Planning Commission before the plan is forwarded to Council. Other projects planned for this year include review and possible revision of various section of the Zoning Code. In addition, an education and enforcement effort will begin this spring to inform property owners and residents of more restrictive high grass regulations enacted in 2016.

Airstream growth highlights year in Jackson Center

For the Sidney Daily News

JACKSON CENTER — It has been a very exciting year for the Village.

"Airstream started construction in October for their new 50,000 square foot addition to their Paint facility," said Administrator Bruce Metz. "With this Airstream now employs over 700 associates. Airstream also purchased the 90,000 square foot former Holloway building from the Village. Airstream also purchased the EMI Corporation building and moved their Parts Department to this location."

His report continues:

EMI Corporation built a new 108,000 square foot facility at 801 West Pike Street. They completed the moving process from their facility at 427 West Pike Street. EMI is looking at adding 10 additional jobs to



Metz

their workforce.

The Village had several new businesses recently open. Saucy Sow's, Haas Brother's Pizza and Beer and Pccassios Food Trailer.

With the growth of our business the Village income tax revenues are up nearly 25 percent over 2015.

Hiro, our K-9 Officer was voted "TOP DOG" of the Miami Valley. Hiro will be featured in the 2017 SCARF (Shelby County Animal Rescue Foundation) calendar.

Hamer Street was extended

500 feet to the railroad tracks.

The sewer line was extended

and new storm lines were

installed. Curbs and paving

will be completed in 2017.

Paving projects for the year were the repaving and reclimating of Shelby and East Streets between Pike and Jackson Streets. Also the village's part of Shroyer Road was

repaved and reclimated.

Village crews upgraded the water main on Linden and Davis Streets around the School. The old 6-inch main was replaced with a new 12-inch main. Materials for the project were obtained from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) totaling \$35,000.

New Village entrance signs were put up on Main Street and Pike Street designed by Behr Design LLC.

The village received a \$52,647 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and another \$130,000 in grant funds from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program for development of a Park on the Water Plant Well Field. This project is planned to start in June 2017.

The village has begun work on the Airstream Drive Traffic Light Project. Trees have been removed and electric utilities are being relocated. Stormwa-

ter work will begin soon. The nearly \$500,000 project will be funded with approximately \$173,000 in grant monies from Jobs Ohio, \$53,000 from ODOT, \$90,000 from

Airstream and the remaining funding from the Village.

The village swapped 34 acres on Washington Street to acquire 28 acres on Jerry Drive across from the Waste-water Treatment Plant.

Village will construct a 1.7 Megawatt Solar Field on approximately 9 acres on Jerry Drive. The engineering has been started and the wet land delineation and environmental phase 1 has been started.

The village will be constructing a 12 acre detention pond on Jerry Drive. This will help with the flooding conditions on Pike Street during heavy rain events. The Village will receive \$160,000 in grant monies from the Neighborhood Revitalization

Grant Program to assist in the \$220,000 project.

The Wastewater Plant

Upgrade Project is 50 percent complete with work is continuing on the clarifiers. The nearly 1 million dollar project should be completed this summer.

The village purchased the 109 East College Street property and razed the old Baptist Church.

The village received \$190,000 in grant money from the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program to reconstruct Davis, Linden, and South Streets around the School. The Village also received an additional \$485,000 in grant monies from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and a \$500,000 in zero interest loan monies from OPWC as well. This will consist of new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers, and pavement. This project is planned to start in the spring.

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The Wastewater Plant Upgrade Project is 50 percent complete with work is continuing on the clarifiers. The nearly 1 million dollar project should be completed this summer.

The village purchased the 109 East College Street property and razed the old Baptist Church.

The village received \$190,000 in grant money from the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program to reconstruct Davis, Linden, and South Streets around the School. The Village also received an additional \$485,000 in grant monies from Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and a \$500,000 in zero interest loan monies from OPWC as well. This will consist of new curbs, gutters, sidewalks, storm sewers, and pavement. This project is planned to start in the spring.

Grant Program to assist in the \$220,000 project.

Community supports Sidney Police Department

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Sidney Police Department completed another year of stability and community support which allowed it to grow locally, but that was not the case nationally in 2016.



Balling

"Tensions between law enforcement and citizens rapidly developed across the United States," said Chief Will Balling. "Nationally there were 130 officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2016. The state of Ohio lost three officers."

"Locally the citizens of Sidney and businesses came out in mass to support us," said Balling. "There were many combined events which showed our department that the community cared for them and it meant a lot to the Officers and their families."

I felt blessed with the outpour of support and

the positive interaction that we had throughout the year."

His report continues: The Sidney Police Department was recognized by the State of Ohio for their policies and standards by the Ohio Collaboration Board. Gov. Kasich established the Ohio Collaborative to hold departments to a higher standard and to improve community trust in law enforcement. The Sidney Police Department was one of the first five in the State to receive their certification approval (out of over 1,000 agencies). This was due to the department's (and officers) willingness to do everything they could do to have a professional department with high standards.

The department also added another full time member to our patrol section. Kilo was introduced to the Sidney Police Department in February. Kilo

is our newest K-9 and works with Officer Jim Jennings. Both had to receive several weeks of training and hit the ground running. Kilo and Officer Jennings are a very valuable resource against the heroin epidemic.

The Department also received a grant to start a Citizens Patrol Academy. During the fall of 2016 25 students went through a 10 week course to learn about the department and what officers do on a daily basis. The officers also had the opportunity to talk with the students to hear their concerns in the community. It was a very positive class and enjoyable to be part of.

The department continued to strive to exceed the community's expectations throughout the year. The State mandated that every officer receive at least 11 hours of training for 2017 (for a total of 396 hours). The Sidney Police department conducted over 3,500 hours of training.



A participant in the Citizens Academy takes part in the active shooter training during on the classes.

Most of the training was provided by in-house instructors or at little to no cost to the City. Officers received training on self-defense, defensive driving instruction, legal updates, mental wellness, situational awareness and other training throughout the year. The training is to provide the officers with the skills and knowledge to provide the best service that they can to our community.

One of the main goals for the department for

2017 will be the continued battle against heroin. Too many lives are being lost to this very addictive drug. Ten people lost their lives to a drug overdose. Over 100 people were charged for drug violations which most were heroin related. Our department is committed and will be dedicated to doing anything that we can to reduce this issue in Sidney. We are working with any organization that we can to educate, prevent and also

treat individuals that are affected by heroin. While we understand that it is not an easy task, we are committed to our community to reduce this issue.

We will continue to move forward as a department and as a community. We will strive to exceed the expectations of our community, to adapt to the ever changing challenges and to provide the highest level of service and protection to our citizens.

Society brings history to life in Shelby County

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016, the Shelby County Historical Society completed its 23rd year since its 1993 reorganization and 16th full year in the Ross Historical Center with many activities, including hosting the first Civil War Living History Weekend at Tawawa Park in partnership with the city of Sidney.



Phlipot

Tilda Phlipot, director, has submitted the following report:

The Society continued telling Shelby County Journey Stories this past year by hosting the Intrepid Women of Shelby County exhibit. SCHS Volunteers created an exhibit that told

the life stories of several women who broke barriers of the era in which they lived. The year was highlighted by a ladies tea held on June 23, 2016. Faye Spangler portrayed Ida Haslup Goode, sharing how Goode became the first woman principal in Shelby County and used her influence to create educational opportunities for women and underprivileged children worldwide.

On Sept. 17-18, 2016, the Society welcomed Civil War reenactors from several states to participate in a living history weekend. The event was held activities including three battles, living history presentations, and a concert provided by the 73rd OVI

Regimental Band.

Our Just for Kids program started in February as fifth-graders from across Shelby County traveled to the Ross Center for the Coming to America exhibit to understand the courage needed to immigrate to a new land. The program continues in May with Civil War Day for all eighth-graders.

In May the Society partnered with Shelby County Soil Water District, Koenig Inc., the Antique Tractor Association, the Sidney High School FFA and Shelby County Farm Bureau to host a multi age-group program entitled Adventures in Agriculture at Emerson Elementary School. Student's eyes light up when they get to touch a farm animal for the first time or go

on their first straw ride provided by the Antique Tractor Association.

Students from Longfellow Elementary School were treated to a Day in Agriculture created through a partnership of the Shelby County Soil and Water District, the Antique Tractor Association and the Sidney High School FFA. Students learned about the farm using innovative hands-on activities. One of the favorite activities during the day was learning how to make bread in a bag. Tammy Herring, head cook, and her staff at Longfellow baked over 50 loaves of bread. Students were given the opportunity to sample a slice of bread which they had made during the day.

In October, Pioneer

Day was held at the fairgrounds for fourth-graders.

The Just for Kids Programs are funded by the Emerson Trust Foundation, Sidney/Shelby County Chamber of Commerce, The Community Foundation of Shelby County, Monarch Legacy Fund and the Shelby County United Way. Other children's programming during the year included the Fall Festival, DARE, Kids Around the Square, Neighborhood Night Out, and the Christmas of YesterYear craft projects done as an open house that hosted over 900 people on a single Saturday!

The Ohio History Connection honored the SCHS again with the History Outreach Award for the "Year of

Valor" programs held during 2015, which included the Field of Valor and the return of the Vietnam Wall.

In 2017 the Shelby County Historical Society will continue its "Journey Stories" theme by featuring "Titans of Industry." The exhibit will open on April 27, 2017. Rich Wallace will present a program on the "Titans of Industry" who built Sidney's industrial foundation.

During June we will host our annual GraceLand Cemetery Tour, in July the second annual Ladies Tea, and in October the Society will host a Ghost Tour and Church Tour, with more programs to be announced. The year will end with Angels in the Attic and Christmas of YesterYear.

Superintendent pleased with New Bremen test scores

For the Sidney Daily News

NEW BREMEN — In 2016, the New Bremen Local School District scored above the state average in many tests and many testing categories, on the Ohio State Test (grades 3-9) and the End of Course (EOC) exams.



Townsend

"Parents and community members need to be aware that this year students will be taking their assessments online," said Superintendent Dr. Andrea Townsend. "This year students will only take the Ohio State Test (grades 3-8) and the End of Course exams (grades 9-12). A few seniors will have the option to take the End of Course exams

or the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) if they choose."

Her report continues: The third-grade students took the Ohio Achievement Assessment in Reading last year to meet the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The program that was put into law three years ago that requires students to pass the third grade reading test to move up to the fourth-grade. Our third-grade students took their first reading test in December 2016 online. The scores have been returned, and we are very pleased with the results. They will take the next reading assessment in the spring. This year we have

focused on early literacy in the primary grades, and we are continuing to refine our math instruction. We are frequently gathering data on our students and providing supports and enrichment based on their progress.

In the middle school and high school, we have been focusing on student leadership qualities. Finally, district-wide we are working to improve our gifted program and student writing K-12.

This year, the New Bremen Local School District continues the pre-bond work for a possible renovation/new construction of the K-8 building. The process started with two independent assessments during the 2015 school year. The district will need to meet the needs

of our current instructional program as well as future needs. The footprint is just a placeholder of the necessary square footage. The actual design will start after the levy passes.

At that time, a new committee to design the building. The district has spent a lot of time looking at 21st Century instruction, building models, and visiting newly constructed 21st Century schools. Most recently the district has formed the levy committee which meets twice a month to work on our campaign for the May 2, 2017, election. The location of the new building will be on the current high school campus. We will have the ability to add our additional sports fields, review transporta-

tion needs, and create a 21st Century learning environment to meet the needs of all of our students.

For the rest of the 2016-2017 school year, we will continue to build leadership qualities in our students. We will continue to foster positive relationships, grit, and leadership with our students. Activities include job inventories, completing activities on Hometown Opportunities, exploring college and career.

This year New Bremen has increased student options through college visits and job shadowing, and creating a student digital portfolio. Additionally, each student has individual advising time during their high school years.

Students are working with local businesses through job shadowing and internships. We have also added a video production class and the Cube. The video production class enables students to continue to develop more schools from the middle school course. The Cube is our College, Career, and Community hub that helps our students work through their career development road map.

We must prepare our students for their futures through real world experiences, career exploration, and community connections. We want our students to take ownership of their education and choose a path for themselves that they will be very successful at in the future.

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Sidney's recovery from Great Recession continues

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The year just ended has been one in which the city of Sidney has continued to recover from the effects of the Great Recession and the simultaneous loss of traditional revenues from the State of Ohio. Income tax revenues, the city's primary source of revenue, this year (adjusted for inflation) finally exceeded the revenues prior to the onset of the Great Recession.

"The bad news is that state-shared revenues have declined about \$1.2 million (\$1.5 million adjusted for inflation) per year since 2007," said Mayor Mike Barhorst. "The cumulative effect of this \$10M+ decline in revenue resulted in the decline in the condition of our roadways, our not filling positions in nearly every department, and the elimination of some services."

His report continues: Every council election cycle, councilmembers meet to review progress made on the goals established by the previous council, and to establish goals for the next biennium. Early in 2016, council's full-day planning retreat resulted in the identification of eight goals for 2016-2017.

Those goals include:

- 1) the continued development of water source project;
- 2) exploring new recreational opportunities;
- 3) the identification of a strategy for beautification of city-wide entrances;
- 4) working with Sidney Alive! to promote downtown development;
- 5) developing a branding strategy;
- 6) identifying fund-



Barhorst

ing for \$5-\$6 million in unfunded underground utilities projects;

- 7) the rigorous enforcement of existing city codes; and,
- 8) continuing to develop collaborative efforts with regional partners for new fire station.

I am pleased to report that work is underway on nearly all the identified goals. As the result of an exceptional construction season, the water source project is ahead of schedule. The well field is substantially complete. The installation of the 30 inch water transmission line is 87 percent complete.

Once all components are fully operational, the city of Sidney will no longer be solely dependent upon surface water for our water supply. I cannot begin to express how excited I am to see this project, discussed for more than half a century, become a reality.

We continue to explore new recreational opportunities. We were excited to learn that the Great Miami Watershed Water Trail had been named a National Water Trail System by the Secretary of the Interior—a designation that could lead to more riverfront investment. The water trail includes the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad Rivers and is the only national water trail in Ohio.

City Council also recently passed legislation supporting US Bike Route 25, a route that begins in Toledo and travels through Sidney to Cincinnati utilizing roadways and trails through the villages, cities, townships and counties along the way. We also continue to explore funding options for the extension of the bicycle trail from Sidney

to Piqua.

A "peace treaty" with the Johnston Farm has been agreed to, and the eventual path for the trail northward to Sidney is being discussed. In fact, there is an active committee of City, County and private sector individuals meeting regularly to make this connection a reality.

Securing funding for the aesthetic improvement of the interstate ramps has also been discussed by Council. Council opted to tackle some of the immediate improvements to the landscaping at the Interstate 75/state Route 47 interchange now, and have a new long-term plan developed by a landscape architect.

When we hosted the forum on the downtown in 2014, we had no idea that it would lead to the formation of Sidney Alive. I am pleased that Sidney Alive continues to actively pursue efforts to promote vital downtown development.

The city also began an update of its Comprehensive Plan in 2016. Various public forums were held and the results are currently being synthesized into a final report. Once the plan is complete, we intend to take the results and work to develop a branding strategy. For the same reasons that branding is important to businesses, we believe that branding is important to the community.

In an effort to identify the funding required for the much needed underground utilities projects, City Council adopted the 2017-2021 Five-Year Plan. In this plan \$60,180,064 has been earmarked for capital improvements over the five year period.

Unfortunately \$23.2



Courtesy photo

Co-sponsored by the Shelby County Historical Society, the City of Sidney held the first biennial Civil War Living History Weekend. Here Union troops on patrol fire upon Confederate troops in a skirmish during the weekend. The event, which drew several thousand visitors, was held at Tawawa Park.

million in capital projects were requested for which we lacked the necessary funds to proceed.

The \$23.2 million in unfunded requests included:

- 1.) \$4.6 million in major street and preventative maintenance;
- 2.) \$9.1 million for other street, bridges, storm sewer, parks and airport improvements as well as vehicle replacements;
- 3.) \$7.1 million for water plant and system improvements; and,
- 4.) \$2.4 million of sewer plant and system improvements. City Council continues to explore grant funding and other available revenue streams to address the community's infrastructure needs.

The amount of these unfunded requests

would have been much greater had it not been for the additional quarter-percent local income tax increase dedicated solely to street and bridge repair. That tax increase allowed the

city to perform more than \$2.7M of improvements that would have also been unfunded without the additional tax monies. We are looking forward to four more years of similar improvements.

There is a unanimous belief among council-members that we need to vigorously enforce existing city codes. We believe that property owners are more likely to invest in their property if they know that their neighbor is not going to be permitted to let their property deteriorate. We will also be reviewing additional legislation to combat neighborhood deterioration.

Finally, council has taken the initial step toward the construction of an additional fire station. Land was purchased in July on which the station will eventually be constructed. More than twenty years ago, the need for a third station to better serve the needs of business, industry and residents

was identified. A strategically positioned north end station will not only reduce response times for medical and fire incidents on the north end, but will also strengthen the Fire Department's ability to address the emergency response needs of the entire community.

In addition, we have had a number of meetings with officials from Auglaize, Darke, Miami, Mercer and Shelby counties that could lead to the development of an ancillary facility that would offer college-level, public safety courses and potentially, entry-level college coursework at the site on which the new fire station would be located. We are excited about this opportunity.

Although I have taken a quick look back at the progress Council has made toward accomplishing our goals, Councilmembers look forward to the New Year, realizing that there is still much work to be done.

Juvenile Court handles 1,300-plus cases in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016 the Shelby County Juvenile Court was a very busy court, handling more than 1,300 cases involving our youth in Shelby



Zimmerman

County.

Judge William R. Zimmerman has submitted the following report:

Juvenile Court handles a variety of child related cases, including delinquencies, traffic violations, unruly children, paternity

cases, truancy charges and Children Services matters (abuse and neglect cases). Juvenile Court also handles custody cases involving children of unwed parents.

Magistrate Jeff Beigel continues to handle the bulk of these custody cases as well as the grandparent visita-

tion and child support enforcement matters.

McKenzie Lotz remains in charge of the Juvenile Court Probation Department and is assisted by Aja Dugan, Lorie Hurey and Kory Yohey, our newest probation officer. The staff remains active with youth through

partnerships with the Family Resource Center (counseling), the Shelby County Animal Shelter (community service), the Alpha Center (victory garden) and the Salvation Army (Bridging the Gap).

With funding from the Shelby County United Way, the Juvenile Court

will start its sixth year with its IMPACT (Imagine Making Positive Accountable Changes Together) program.

This prevention program excels in assisting at risk youth and reduces their future involvement in the juvenile justice system. Amy Simindinger, the Juvenile Court liaison officer, remains the director of this excellent program.

Our 2016 successes include:

- Juvenile Court records went on-line;
- The IMPACT program implemented a social skills class in three Shelby County elementary schools called "Good Neighbor" designed to enhance social skills of children;
- Implemented CARTEENS program for traffic offenders to give greater driver safety awareness for new drivers;
- Expanded our tutoring program for at risk kids to include youth in detention or jail and to youth placed at Clear Creek Farms.

I left office on Feb. 8 to start my new job as judge on the Third District Court of Appeals. I was fortunate to have an outstanding team and believe I will leave the court in very good shape.

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Job & Family Services provides numerous services

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016 the Shelby County Department of Job & Family Services continued to provide services under numerous programs. The Child Support Enforcement Division continued their efforts to ensure that court-ordered child support payments are made.



Bey

ents intentionally shirk their responsibilities to support their children. Moving from job to job, working "under the table" and changing addresses make it difficult to collect payments."

His report continues:

The Employment & Services Division works with Shelby County residents who are required to participate in employment programs due to receipt of cash or food assistance programs. Additionally, employment services are provided, free of charge, to all residents of Shelby County. This is done through the Shelby County Means Jobs center. Information is available on current job opportunities. Information on training oppor-

tunities is also available. The Division also determines eligibility services for child care services and emergency assistance.

The Financial & Medical Services Division is responsible for determining initial and ongoing eligibility for all cash, food & medical assistance programs. The cash assistance program (OWF) has become a small part of the caseload. In most months under six (6) adults are receiving cash assistance for themselves and their children. Most cases result from relatives caring for children or families with disabled parents.

The SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) caseload is slowly falling from its numbers from the Great Recession. Able-bodied recipients of cash

and food assistance are required to participant in some form of work/training as part of their eligibility. Over 50 percent of SNAP recipient are elderly/disabled while over 30 percent are employed in low paying jobs.

The major program of the Financial & Medical Division is Medicaid. This caseload peaked at over 10,000 during 2016. The number is now closer to 9,000. Expanded Medicaid was implemented in 2014 as part of the Affordable Care Act. The program expanded Medicaid eligibility to adults with gross monthly income under 133 percent (\$2,235) of the federal poverty level. The purpose was to provide medical coverage to adults working at low-paying jobs. Currently,

almost 1,700 adults are receiving expanded Medicaid services. As part of the ACA the Expanded Medicaid Program will be under intense review this year.

The Children Services Division continues to deal with the heroin epidemic in Shelby County. During the last three years (2014, 2015 and 2016) 110 Shelby County children were removed from their parent(s) home due to opiate addiction issues. Of those 110 children 68 are in the legal custody of relatives, four were adopted and 33 are still in agency/relative placement. Unfortunately, only five of these children were re-unified with their parent(s). Staff continue to work with these parents but in most situations the addiction is stronger

than love for their children. Not only does the addiction destroy families it increases the number of HIV and Hepatitis C cases and increases placement costs to the county, state and federal governments.

The department is fortunate to have a strong Fiscal/Support Division. The 2016 audit found no financial findings which a testament to staff. All department staff are dedicated to serving the residents of Shelby County.

The department knows that every dollar it receives are from the taxpayers. The department strives to be good stewards for these dollars. For more information on the department and all of the services offered please see our website at: www.shelby-countyjfs.org.

CSSMV rolls out RideLink program in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016, the Northern Area Office of Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley provided assistance to meet the needs of over 2000 residents in Shelby County and surrounding areas. According to Kathy Sell, Director of the Northern Area Office, "In keeping with the CSSMV mission of strengthening individuals and families through actions of faith, service, and charity, the agency focused on counseling, senior services, transportation, and early childhood and parenting support."



Schweller-Snyder

the Northern Office of CSSMV provided vital services to residents of all faiths in Auglaize, Champaign, Darke, Logan, Miami, Mercer, Preble and Shelby counties. Services impacted all ages from preschool to the elderly.

CSSMV has found that one of the barriers to connecting individuals to services that can enhance the quality of life in rural communities is finding adequate transportation. Thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation, CSSMV rolled out a new program in 2016 called RideLink, a call center devoted to educating consumers on transportation options available in their communities that meet their mobility needs. Our mobility manager has also conducted driver

training programs for area agencies that provide transportation for seniors or disabled individuals.

CSSMV offered professional mental health counseling services to individuals, families, and groups. Licensed, experienced counselors helped clients deal with a wide range of issues including relationships, stress, grief and loss, and depression. By empowering clients to resolve these issues, CSSMV helped individuals and in turn, stabilized area families.

Counselors working in the CSSMV Early Childhood Program promoted healthy social and emotional development in

young children, both as individuals and in group settings. We are now expanding educational services for parents and teachers working with young children. Our educational specialist, who holds Masters Degrees in Education and Special Education, and an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration, Curriculum and Supervision, has started providing educational workshops for parents and specialized classes for pre-school to school-age teachers, with a special emphasis on trauma informed care training.

Since 1984, the Northern Area office of CSSMV has continued

to collaborate with the

Ohio Department of Aging to administer the PASSPORT waiver program, matching individuals with long term services and support.

In the past year, CSSMV Northern County continued to collaborate with the Shelby County United Way, PSA-2 Area Agency on Aging, and other local community agencies to provide services to Shelby County seniors.

Licensed social workers and registered nurses at CSSMV coordinated community resources and educated families on available options for long term home and community based services through care management.

The director and staff at CSSMV have made it a priority to keep abreast of the programs and policy changes at the state and national level that are affecting community based long term services for all populations. CSSMV is committed to expanding its services as necessary to meet the long term needs of residents in area communities in the years to come.

Thanks to community support from the United Way and generous donors, Catholic Social Services looks forward to another year of serving the residents of Shelby County and the surrounding areas.

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Shelby County Business Journal

Center provides rehabilitation services for youth, adults

For the Sidney Daily News

PIQUA — For over 44 years the Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development & Nicholas School has been providing rehabilitation and educational services to children and adults with a brain injury that reside in Shelby, Miami and surrounding counties. Today, the Center has evolved into a non-profit organization that offers a comprehensive neurodevelopmental rehabilitation program, an EEG neurofeedback training program called the Brain Wellness Center, an aquatic program called the Aquatic Therapy & Wellness Center, an adult day program for intellectually disabled adults and Nicholas School, a special needs kindergarten through eighth-grade non-public charter school.

Executive Director

Carla Bertke has submitted the following report:

In keeping with the co-founder's vision, the Rehabilitation Center's goal is to offer a unique and successful service to children and adults with a brain injury regardless of age, abilities, or economic circumstances. Under the stewardship of a 15 member Board of Directors and with the help of 40 dedicated staff and many volunteers, the center served over 300 clients from 16 Ohio counties this past year. Approximately 20 percent of the clients served at the Center reside in Shelby County.

Services offered by the Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development and Nicholas School are unique. There are only five other centers in the United States that provide the types of services the Rehabilitation Center offers. No other center

has a heated pool in which to provide aquatic therapy. Nicholas School is one of only three schools in the United States that combine curriculum and neurological programming to help students achieve their maximum potential.

The Rehab Center again experienced a positive year in 2016. With the continuation of the older adult and the intensive children's programs referrals for service continued to increase. Requests for adult day support services increased as well. However due to limited space most of these requests have been delayed. Enrollment for Nicholas School continued to be at the school's capacity for the 2015-16 school year. As a result of the Center's productivity, our financial outlook continued to look positive. The 2016 fiscal year ended with a posi-



The Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development & Nicholas School is located at 1306 Garbry Road in Piqua.

tive net gain in revenues over expenses.

By December 2016, the Center completed an expansion of our facility to accommodate the growing demand for adult day support services. Consequently, it is anticipated that the adult day support program shall experience a significant increase in referrals for 2017. Given the continuation

of the older adult and intensive children's programs for 2017, it is also expected that referrals for the rehab program shall continue to grow. Planning regarding the future direction of the Nicholas School program needs to continue to be explored and developed for the near future.

Located at 1306 Garbry Road in Piqua, the

Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development & Nicholas School serves children and adults who are diagnosed with some form of brain injury. To learn more about the Center please visit our web site at www.rcnd.org. You can also follow the Center on Facebook. The Rehabilitation Center is a United Way Member Agency.

Longtime Anna Schools treasurer steps down

For the Sidney Daily News

ANNA — The Anna Schools began 2016 by agreeing to contracts and pay rates for all employees for a three year period of time. With a strong financial forecast and considerable general fund carryover balance, the schools are extremely fiscally stable for the foreseeable future.

Superintendent Andy



Bixler has submitted the following report:

The school system is going through a transition in treasurers.

After 36 years, Denny

Raberding is stepping down from the position. While he will remain working for the schools focusing primarily on our building renovation project, the school board employed district resident, Cathy Doseck to take over the treasurer's role. Cathy has served as a school treasurer in both a tra-

ditional school as well as educational service center, most recently holding the same post in New Knoxville.

The Anna School Board continues to prepare for the planned \$20,000,000 facilities renovation project in partnership with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. The state will supply \$8,700,000 with local taxpayers paying the rest. Input from the community clearly showed the strong desire to distribute the local share

of the costs as broadly as possible. With that in mind, the board decided to place a levy on the March 15 ballot that asked for an increase of 1/4 percent of income tax and about 2.7 mills of property tax for a term of up to 18 years and the voters approved this initiative. The money will be spent in all of our educational facilities and extend their functional use by 30 to 40 years. We were able to borrow money at historically low rates and maintain the values and priorities that

have become historically important to our community. The Anna Schools will be one of the last area schools to have an OSFC project and the first to have it paid off.

Together with the state as a partner the schools have selected BSHM as the architects for the project. This firm is located in Columbus and has extensive background in renovations. The planning team has also selected Robertson as the construction manager for the project. The central Ohio company is

dedicated to utilizing the local workforce as subcontractors in a building renovation. With these two groups on board, the real planning will begin.

In August, the new State Report Card was released. The Anna schools earned a "B" in the area of achievement. With all the changes to state testing, the Anna students showed that they were prepared for the new challenges. This is a credit to our high performing students, dedicated staff and supportive parents.

H-H Schools shares academic growth of students

For the Sidney Daily News

HOUSTON — The Hardin-Houston Local School District and surrounding community are enjoying the sixth full year in the K12 facility.

"Since 2011, we have continued to develop academic programming designed to enhance our student learning at all grade levels," said Superintendent Larry Claypool. "Over this last 2016 school year we are pleased with our student's academic growth and will look forward to improving on the district's annual Report Card next fall."

His report continues:

Along with excellent K-12 academic instruction, FCCLA, FFA, and multiple athletic team opportunities, the district continues to provide a well-rounded environment



Claypool

for all students to succeed in whatever areas they select. This fall's Spelling Bee's winners were champion Bryce Sauvie, sixth-grade, and runners up Grace Koenig,

sixth-grade, and Madelyn Wills, eighth-grade. For the second year in a row, Gustav Gothenberg won the Geography Bee and Collin Walker was awarded second place honors. The District continues to celebrate "All A's Night" for those students in grades 3 through 6 who receive all

A's for the first semester of the school year and are introduced and honored at one of the final home varsity boys basketball games of the season.

Fiscally speaking, the dis-

trict remains financially stable with a healthy carryover due to being proactive in its financial planning. Adjustments have been made to both staff and purchases, and we con-

tinued to evaluate our financial position throughout the school year. We are pleased that Hardin-Houston has maintained a positive student open enrollment for the last six years and our \$7,991.00 cost to educate one student ranks among the lowest public schools in the state. Our staff, administrative team, and Board Of Education, wish to thank every parent and student for making Hardin-Houston their school of choice.

Regarding building and grounds, the District completed two major projects over the summer. After 37 years of faithful service to our fans and finally in need of repair, the old original wooden bleachers in the competition gymnasium were finally replaced with the installation of new, solid wood beautifully stained bleachers. The second project also complimented the new bleachers in the competition gym with a coat of fresh, new paint, some

upgraded lighting, new wall mats with our Wildcat logo and new duo of score boards at each end of the court.

Hardin-Houston has had several exceptional performances by its athletic teams and individuals. The softball team continued to excel capturing another SCAL championship as well as becoming the district champions and regional runner-ups. As an individual, Macy Stang was recognized for her extraordinary play by being named First Team All-State. In baseball, Howie Ludwig's performance earned him a Second Team SCAL. The track team had several members qualify for the regional competition. These individuals consisted of Caitlyn Falls, Shelby Ayers, Zack McKee, Derreck Mayse, Troy Riley, Parker Cox, Tristin Stangel and Ethan Knouff. This past fall there were several noteworthy athletic

performances as well. The cross-country team had a very respectable season, winning two invitational meets and placing second or third in several others. There were six members of the boys and girls teams acknowledged by the SCAL. Ethan Knouff, Parker Cox, Morgan Ely, and Allie Voiard were Second Team SCAL. Qualifying First Team SCAL were Tristin Freistuhler and Hollie Voiard. The boys' team also qualified to run in the regional meet and finished ninth. Finally, Alyssa Kemp had a remarkable performance in volleyball play. She broke the school's serving percentage ending up with an incredible 99 percent serving percentage.

In closing, Hardin-Houston is truly thankful for the support of our local community members, parents, and booster groups. To succeed, it takes all of us!

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Upper Valley Career Center looks to the future

For the Sidney Daily News

PIQUA — Upper Valley Career Center has been proudly serving the region for 42 years as a provider of career and technical training to students in grades 7-12 and adults.



Luce

"Career and technical education teaches students to think critically, work both independently and as part of a team, find solutions to real life problems and develop a strong work ethic – all while engaged in applied, real-world practical training," said Dr. Nancy Luce, superintendent. "For example our students are operating a restaurant, building a house, designing web pages, providing quality educational services to toddlers and pre-schoolers, serving as nursing assistants in care facilities, developing individualized fitness regimens and oversee more than 180 acres of wetlands and forest."

Her report continues:

On the main campus, more than 830 11th- and 12th-grade students are enrolled in 25 programs. Another 3,220 students

grade 7-12 are receiving training in Upper Valley Career Center programs in area middle and high schools. Over 98 percent of our students earned a high school diploma and within six months of graduation 92 percent were in college or other post-secondary training, employed and/or serving in the military.

A continuing focus is the expansion of our Apprenticeship program, which is approved by the Ohio State Apprenticeship Council. In the past four years, 122 HS apprentice successfully completed the rigorous program. Fifty-six companies served as apprenticeship sites for these students. Our staff continues to work closely with interested employers to meet their needs and expand opportunities for students.

A new Fab Lab equipped with design software, 3-D printers, mills, lathes, CNC routers and laser engravers opened this year. The facility will be used to foster innovation among students, as well as provide a site for younger learners to explore engineering and manufac-

ting in a hands-on setting during afterschool programs. The goal is to expand use of the Fab Lab to provide community members scheduled access when school is not in session.

We look forward to the launch of a Vet Science program this fall. This program will interest students wanting to pursue careers as a veterinarian, vet tech or in related fields. Students will learn about large and small animals with a strong focus on anatomy, physiology, and nutrition.

Last year 1,361 individuals took advantage of Adult Division training offered through our Career-Technology (CTE) programs, Skill Enhancement classes, the Adult Basic Education program and customized incumbent-worker training for employers. Over 250 individuals took advantage of our Assessment Center to earn their GEDs, National Career Readiness Certificates, and various industry credentials such as CompTIA and Cisco.

The Adult CTE programs include: Advanced Manufacturing Maintenance; PLC Specialty; Precision Tooling and Machining; HVAC and Refrigeration; Practical Nursing; Medical and Business Office Professional. CTE programs are 9 to 11 months in length. CTE students can earn state and nationally recognized industry credentials. Some CTE programs offer college credit through Ohio Department of Higher Education's state initiatives. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.



Courtesy photo
Adam Clutter, Sidney High School senior, is a pre-engineering student shown working with the CNC Router in the fab lab.

Skill Enhancement classes range from 4 to 250 hours in length. Topics currently include: Forklift Operator, Microsoft Office, ServSafe, Certified Logistics Associate plus many more options. This coming fall, we will be adding Phlebotomy and EKG classes. Upper Valley Career Center Adult Division is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges.

As a district Upper Valley Career Center is dedicated to offering programs that prepare students for immediate jobs as well as the next levels of training. Programming grows and changes to align with current demands.

A vital component of our success has been and continues to be the strong support of community, education, and business/industry representatives who serve as vital partners in our evolution.

Edison introduces new initiatives

For the Sidney Daily News

PIQUA — In keeping with its mission, Edison State Community College is working to provide the communities it serves with the best education and resources possible. A number of institution-wide initiatives will get underway in 2017, to ensure the tradition, which Edison State was founded upon, continues.



Larson

Edison State students, faculty and staff to connect, raise awareness, build and strengthen relationships, and further develop workforce opportunities.

The Edison State Works workforce development initiative is tightly bound to the Edison State mission statement and strategic plan which states:

"Edison State Community College provides the learning opportunities, support services and commitment that enables students to complete their educational goals and realize their dreams."

"The goal of Edison State Works is to connect our pool of highly skilled students to employers in our region," said Edison State President, Dr. Doreen Larson.

Her report continues: Agriculture Program: Edison State is pleased introduced a new agriculture program which is on track for an official launch in the fall of 2017.

The program, which will reside at the Darke County Campus while also serving communities in Miami, Shelby, and surrounding counties, will prepare students for various career options or transfer opportunities upon completion.

The Edison State Board of Trustees approved the degree program during the January Board meeting. Next steps will include submitting the degree to the Ohio Department of Higher Education followed by the Higher Learning Commission for approval.

Once officially launched, Edison State administration will continue to look at other possibilities within the program including certificate options, training opportunities, and articulation agreements.

Softball Team: The Edison State Community College Athletic Department recently announced it would add women's softball to its list of intercollegiate athletic

programs beginning in the spring of 2018. The announcement comes on the heels of the baseball team's successful advancement from the national club level to the varsity level in 2015.

Planning is currently underway to upgrade the College's softball field, which is located adjacent to the baseball field on the east side of the Piqua campus. The softball team will join Edison State's baseball, basketball, and volleyball teams to compete in Region XII as Division II members of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and as members of the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC).

Guided Pathways: As part of a nationwide effort among community colleges, Edison State Community College will work toward implementing the guided pathways to success initiative to help students complete programs faster and achieve academic



success.

The guided pathway model is an integrated, institution-wide approach to student success that includes four essential practices:

- Clarification of paths to student end goals through program maps and transfer pathways;

- Helping students choose and enter a pathway bridging K12 to higher education and assisting students by aligning mathematics and foundational skills with their program of study;

- Helping students stay on their chosen path by providing strong advising along with academic and non-academic

supports; and,

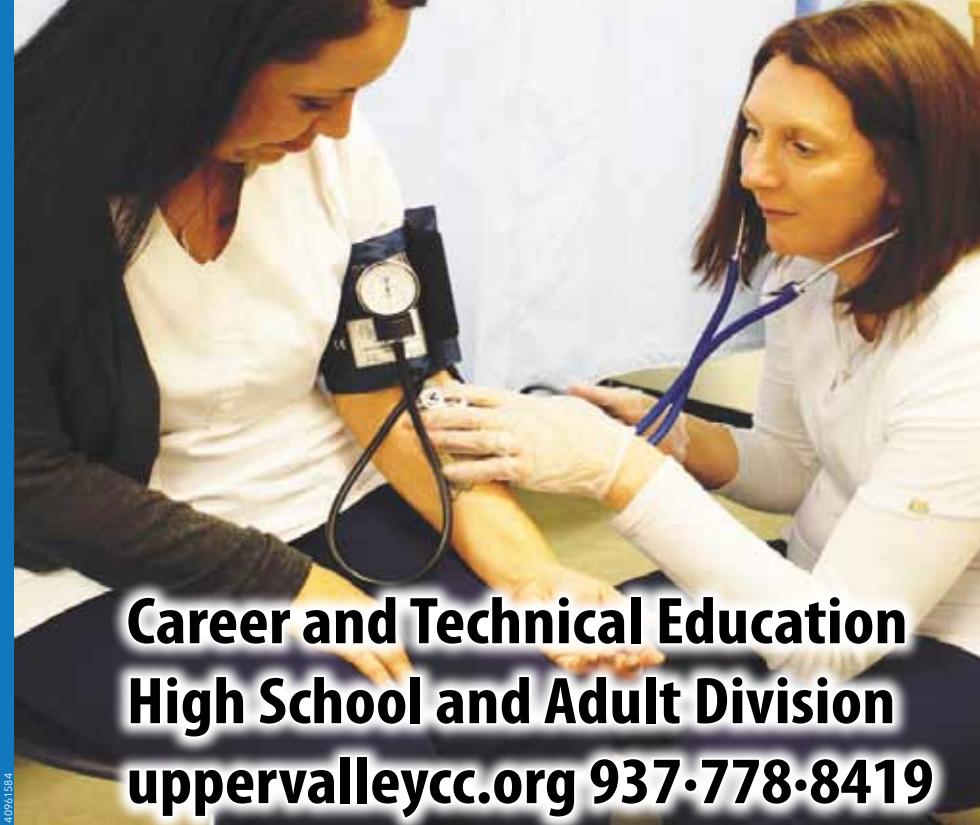
- Ensuring that students are learning skills and knowledge required for success in employment and further education.

Edison State has also been selected as one of six community colleges in Ohio to participate in a research study of the guided pathways project conducted by the Community College Research Center (CRCC) at Columbia University's Teachers College. The CRCC will interview Edison State staff, provide feedback, and prepare a comprehensive report that will integrate the findings across all six institutions.

“ My life-long dream became a reality at Upper Valley Career Center. I graduated with confidence in my skills and abilities, and most importantly, a job! ”

Krista Snider,
Practical Nursing,
September 2016 Cohort

UPPER VALLEY
CAREER CENTER
ADULT DIVISION



Career and Technical Education
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uppervalleycc.org 937-778-8419

Ohio Living Dorothy Love experiences growth, change in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Ohio Living Dorothy Love has been a valuable member of the Sidney community, offering independent living homes and apartments, assisted living, skilled nursing and rehabilitation services.



Atwood

"In 2016, we experienced much growth and change that will allow us to better serve the Sidney community going forward," said Executive Director Tricia Atwood.

Her report continues:

On Oct. 28, our parent company, Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services, changed its name to Ohio Living. As a result, each of the organization's 12 life plan communities, including Dorothy Love, added Ohio Living to their existing community names - turning Dorothy Love Retirement Community to Ohio Living Dorothy Love. Additionally, Senior Independence, our

home health and hospice provider changed its name to Ohio Living Home Health & Hospice and our charitable foundation is now Ohio Living Foundation.

We are very excited about this change and believe it will bring a bright future as we continue to offer high-quality care and services to you under the unified name of Ohio Living. Please rest assured that this rebranding effort is not the result of a merger, acquisition or change in ownership. Rather, it was the result of a thoughtful process that sought to honor the company's nearly 95-year history while remaining relevant to current generations and those well into the future. Our people, mission and ownership remain the same.

We chose the name Ohio Living because it embodies the essence of who we are as an organization - a community of people who celebrate living. It is our deepest desire to provide others with opportunities to live life to the fullest by joining alongside them to



Sargeant Family Center for Aquatic Therapy & Rehab has opened at Ohio Living Dorothy Love.

make each day count. This new brand is an expression of our organizational values and speaks to the principles we were founded on in caring for Ohioans.

Additionally, in June 2016, Ohio Living Dorothy Love broke ground on the Sargeant Family Center for Aquatic Therapy & Rehab. The project doubled the size of our existing therapy gym and features a HydroWorx 2000 therapy pool, which provides a warm, soothing therapy environment that puts less stress on

joints or painful areas. This is conducive to a faster, more successful recovery. The state-of-the-art therapy pool offers underwater cameras for observation by the therapist, moveable resistance jets, an integrated treadmill and rising floor for easy access.

The rehab center, named for brothers and long-time supporters John and Bob Sargeant, was funded by an Ohio Living Foundation capital campaign for which they served as honorary co-chairs. The campaign exceeded its

fundraising goal, demonstrating the strong support for this kind of therapy in the Sidney area.

The new center will pair nicely with our Rehab Studios that were opened in October 2015, offering comfortable, private accommodations to rehab patients as they recover from an injury, illness or surgery.

The Sargeant Family Center for Aquatic Therapy & Rehab will open in January 2017 and will offer physical, speech and occupational therapy to both Ohio Living Dorothy Love residents and those in the Sidney area, providing personalized recovery plans using the latest equipment and innovative techniques.

At Ohio Living Dorothy Love, we have been evolving and changing for more than 94 years and 2016 was another great example of how we will continue changing to meet the needs of our community. We look forward to continuing to serve you with these expanded offerings in 2017.

Botkins continues to see growth in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

BOTKINS — For the Botkins community, the defining word for 2016 is growth.



Purdy

"Over the last year, Botkins has grown its community, increased recreational opportunities, developed its businesses, and even expanded its boundaries," said Village Administrator Randy Purdy.

His report continues:

In just one year, the new Woodland Subdivision has sold nine of its first 10 lots, and begun

construction on four new homes. The budding neighborhood on the north-east corridor of the village is set to expand again in 2017, with phase two of the development scheduled for this summer. Ten more lots will be available, providing additional opportunities for families to join our community.

The Woodland Subdivision is only part of the Village Council's vision for the future of Botkins. This fall, the village agreed to purchase the remaining 60 acres of the Hagemann

farm that borders Botkins' corporation limit to the north. Bordering the Community Park, the new Botkins Local School, and the Woodland Subdivision, the acquisition of this ground ensures our community will have room to grow for decades to come. In the months to come, this property will be annexed into the village, and prepared for future development.

Besides external expansion, 2016 has provided the village another opportunity to improve recreation and quality of life. Keeping with

the Botkins tradition, it was a true community-wide effort that made these investments possible. The most notable improvements can be seen at the Botkins Memorial Pool. New fencing, paint, concrete and sod were installed, and the pool area was expanded to create a new recreational yard for other summer activities. At the Community Park, Botkins further invested in recreational assets by rebuilding the tennis courts. A new batting cage and volley ball nets are scheduled improvements to the park in 2017.

bined for record breaking year of income tax collection for the village.

Looking ahead, 2017 is set to be another fantastic year for Botkins!

Several projects are already lined up for the new year. The Botkins Historical Society is set to proceed with \$70,000 of renovations this spring. Also, this summer marks the first year of the village's sidewalk installation program. Infrastructure investments are highlighted by a comprehensive renovation of the water treatment plant which is scheduled for late summer.

Grants, scholarships awarded in Shelby County, across U.S.

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — "Community Foundation of Shelby County charitable funds infused more than \$2.6 million in grants and scholarships in Shelby County and across the U.S. in 2016," reported Marian Spicer, executive director. "During the year, local people and organizations gifted \$3 million to establish and grow charitable funds at the Foundation."



Spicer

Her report continues:

The not-for-profit public foundation governs 156 charitable funds totaling nearly \$29 million. Its role is to carry out the wishes of community members by administering charitable funds that provide grants and scholarships for purposes outlined by a fund's establishing donors. The Community

Foundation was created in 1952 and is in compliance with National Standards, an accreditation process.

Several charitable funds were established last year:

- The Don and Helen Ambos Memorial Scholarship Fund was created by the couple's children, Karen Green and Craig Ambos, to benefit

Botkins graduates.

- The Dale and Kathy Nichols Family Foundation was created to support a wide range of charitable organizations.

The Russia residents will advise the fund's grants.

- The Irene Palko Scholarship Fund will benefit Anna High School seniors who will pursue a degree in education.

Palko, a longtime teacher who served for part of her career in the McCartyville and Anna schools was remembered by Dan and Nita Water-

cutter, who established the fund.

• The Paul and Veronica Perin Scholarship Fund will provide scholarships to Fort Loramie High School seniors with a focus on academics and school and community involvement.

• The James F. and Marcia L. Schulze Scholarship Fund was established to provide two renewable scholarships to Fort Loramie grads majoring in engineering or computer science.

• The Shelby County Fairgrounds Construction Fund is receiving gifts for grandstands and other facility improvements at the fairgrounds.

• Five local residents established Gift Accounts, short-term donor advised charitable

funds that enable giving to other charities. Additionally, several local residents created charitable fund agreements that will establish new funds through their estates.

Gifts for these and other existing funds are welcome at any time and should be made payable to the Community Foundation of Shelby County with the fund name noted on the memo line.

Credit card gifts may be made to any charitable fund by clicking the "Make a Gift" button of the Foundation's website at www.commfoun.com.

Workshops on the Foundation's grants and investments were held during 2016. The Foundation also participated in a collaborative with other local foundations

to provide estate and retirement planning seminars to local residents.

The 2017 Community Foundation officers are Mardie Milligan, chair; Doug Borchers, vice chair; Karen Fortman, secretary;

and Norm Smith, treasurer.

Trustees are Jerry Doerger, Mick Given,

Cindy Helman, Rudy Keister, Aaron Koenig,

Doug Stewart and Priscilla Wilt.

Staff members include myself, accounting manager Jeanne Hoyer, CPA, office

assistant Sara Mitchell

and accounting administrator Barbara Stueve.

The newest member of the staff, donor relations director Jessica Fortkamp, joined the Foundation in October.

In 2017, the Foundation will celebrate its 65th anniversary of working with local residents wanting to give to charitable causes in the community.

Foundation staff and volunteers also hope to raise the awareness among potential donors of giving to existing charitable funds.

For more information, contact Jessica Fortkamp at 937-497-7800 or email at jfortkamp@commfoun.com.

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County launches 211 Helpline

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — "Shelby County United Way had a successful and eventful 2016" said Scott Barr, executive director. "We are projecting reaching goal, raising just over \$1,349,000. This allows for the funding of 27 agencies



Barr

and programs and a special project program that awarded 22 additional smaller grants throughout the year."

His report continues: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library completed a second year. The early education literacy program delivers monthly, age appropriate books to the homes of Shelby County children. Currently 1,980 children in the county are enrolled and to date, over 30,000 books have been mailed.

This program is funded by many community partners and Wilson Health enrolls infants at the birthing center. Parents are encouraged to visit imagination-library.com and click on REGISTER MY CHILD or visit any of the local libraries in Shelby County.

Character Playbook-Building Healthy Relationships was launched in seven of our largest school districts. The digital course uses evidence-based strategies to educate students on how to cultivate and maintain healthy relationships during their critical middle school years. It is comprised of six modules that cover key concepts of positive character development, social-emotional learning (SEL), and building healthy relationships. Topic Areas include: Analyzing Influences,



Understanding and Managing Emotions, Communicating Effectively, Resolving Conflicts, Stepping In, and Making Decisions. This course will allow students to engage with true-to-life scenarios. 456 students completed 1,596 learning modules through December. This will increase through the remainder of the school year.

The Shelby County United Way, the Community Services Council, POWER, and Salvation Army coordinated a fall coat drive for the schools in our county. Hampton Inn washed used coats and POWER distributed the coats to the schools. Over 100 coats were

distributed to 7 school buildings.

The Shelby County United Way remains active in the community with representation on the Mayor's Homeless Task Force, Continuum of Care, Community Services Council, Heroin Task Force, Area Agency on Aging, Drug Free Coalition, and Family and Children First Council. The Shelby County United Way sponsored a workshop in the summer of 2016 with the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Community Foundation facilitating on Board Governance and Development.

Work to bring 211 Helpline to Shelby Coun-

ty took place in the fall and winter of 2016. 211 successfully launched Jan. 1, 2017 with the anticipation of 1,500 to 1,800 calls per year. The 211 information and referral hotline will be answered 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. The hotline will hopefully more easily connect residents to available community resources. The trained operators will be able to provide callers with phone numbers, hours of operation and qualifications for various programs available for such diverse programs as counseling, senior programming and utility assistance. The Shelby County United Way, along with the city of Sidney, County Commissioners, Board of DD, Health Department, Job and Family Services, and Tri County Board of Recovery are funding this service.

The 27 United Way funded programs and agencies are impacting the communities in the areas of Health, Education, and Income because of the ongoing support of the community. Thirty-five percent of the campaign dollars came from corporate gifts with the remaining 65 percent from local individuals and families. Shelby County is a special place to live because of the compassion towards our fellow citizens. The Shelby County United Way would like to thank all of our Donors, Campaign Leaders, Volunteers, and United Way Staff for your time and treasures. 2017 will celebrate "60 years of Changing Lives" in Shelby County. Visit our recently launched website and new domain, www.shelby-countyunitedway.org for more information.

'X-Force- Think Big' introduced at middle schools

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shelby and Darke County continues to focus on its mission to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.



Bruns

"Big." Through this program sixth- to eighth-grade students are paired with adult professionals from Shelby County who meet with them twice a month. During these sessions the focus is in job skills needed for future workforce placement. Sessions also take place at various business/companies in the area for hands on activities. There are eight mentors working with eight students.

The after-school mentoring program, "Big Buddies" launched the 2016-17 school year with 225 participants. Buddy programs are established in Longfellow, Northwood, Emerson and Whittier elementary schools in Sidney, Woodland Heights, Versailles,

and Ansonia Elementary Schools in Darke County. The program continues to promote social and educational enhancing activities. Big Brothers Big Sisters program was able to implement The 7 Habits of Happy Kids into all seven of the after school programs.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is working to launch Lunch "Buddies" at Jackson Center Elementary School. Community members will have lunch every Wednesday with an assigned second- or third-grade student. During lunch, they will be forming friendships as well as working on phonics and reading skills.

In 2016, the agency served approximately 151 children through our core community program. The agency

currently has 37 children who are ready to be matched in the program with a Big Brother or Big Sister. Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and board are gearing up their recruitment efforts to get more community members involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Goals for 2017 are to remain active in the seven elementary schools and middle school after school program as well as launch the lunch buddies program throughout our two county service area and to grow the community base matches to 160 children being served. Big Brothers Big Sisters served over 372 children in 2016.

Forty-five percent of the operating funds for both counties are derived from Shelby and Darke

per person until Feb. 28, 2017. You can obtain your tickets for this event at www.ohio2017.com or by calling Eikenberry Retirement Planning at 800-548-6511.

The other major fundraiser is our Annual Duck Race and 5K Run in Tawawa Park. In 2016, the agency launched more than 3,092 rubber ducks, adopted by local community members. The first place duck and its owner took home a \$1,000 shopping spree. This year the race is set for Thursday, June 22, 2017. The agency 5K run had over 257 participants in its 10th annual event.

More information about the agency can be found at www.bigbrobigsis-shelbydarke.org.

Street repair, public safety priority for Kettlersville Council

For the Sidney Daily News

KETTLERSVILLE — Village streets received crack sealing during 2016, and the Kettlersville Village Council will consider paving projects at meetings this Spring. Streets needing attention include South Street and Kettlersville Road from state Route 274 to North Street. The Village has also been informed that ODOT will be repaving state Route 274 through the village in 2018.

After conducting a traffic



Kaminsky

survey on McCartyville Road, and both east and west directions of state Route 274, the village entered into a contract with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for additional patrols within corporation limits, with the Sheriff's Office providing monthly updates. "There has been a noticeable decrease in speeding within the Village, and I credit the increased presence of the Sheriff for that," said Mayor Eric Kaminsky.

The random times of the patrols is also helping, according to the mayor.

"People know they need to slow down, which is especially important due to the increase

in the number of families with children now living in the village."

His report continues: To help improve the appearance of the village, several properties were submitted to the Shelby County Land Bank for consideration for demolition and redevelopment of the properties. No decision on the fate of those properties has yet been made. Improvements to the Council Chambers building this spring will include new signage and the installation of a new flag and flagpole. The council is also still planning to have the bell from the old town hall, which it sold in 2015, removed and

brought to the Council Chambers for display in the meeting room.

Businesses located within the village include Sunrise Cooperative (formerly Tru-pointe), Steinke Metal Fabricating and the U.S. Post Office. The former K-Village Inn remains closed, but the property is now being offered for sale. The Immanuel United Church of Christ is located near the center of the Village.

Kettlersville is also home to the Van Buren Township building and the Kettlersville/Van Buren Township Fire Department, located on North Street. The annual Fireman's Picnic will be held at the

Township building grounds in July.

The council president is John Shumate. Members of council are Karen Berning, David Greer, Vickie Greer, Betty Ike and Ida Kaminsky. The fiscal officer is Linda Miller, while the zoning officer is Randy Wentz.

Committees in the village are: Street, Finance and Lands and Buildings.

I represent the village on the Shelby County Regional Planning Commission.

Regular meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, 8844 State Route 274.

Sidney Fire, Emergency Services sees 5.6% increase in calls

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Sidney Department of Fire & Emergency Services experienced a large increase in activity in 2016.

"During the past year, the department responded to 4,083 calls for service, which is 5.6 percent increase from the 2015 levels, a 12 percent increase from 2014 - and the highest volume of calls in Department history," said Chief Bradley S. Jones. "There were 4,083 EMS calls and 931 fire calls. Those fires resulted in three civilian injuries, two fatalities, and four firefighter injuries; and accounted for fire losses totaling \$637,095 which is less than the 2015 fire loss."

His report continues:

The Fire Prevention Division also

experienced a busy year, performing 348 inspections. In conjunction with

the Sidney-Shelby County Fire Investigation Unit, they were involved in 24 fire investigations, with 14 of those within the City of Sidney. This is an increase from 15 fire investigations in 2015. Over 4,000 youth and adults were served with 120 instructional programs in fire safety, fire extinguisher usage, and educational safety programs given annually in all public and parochial schools in grades K-5. With over 6,000 total man-hours, fire personnel continued in-service training with classes: Cardiac, Geriatric and Pediatric Protocol, Trauma, 12-Lead EKG, SCBA, Pediatric advanced life support (PALS), and other EMS courses. Fire training included: pump operations, general hose, technical rescue areas including ice rescue, river rescue, trench rescue, rope rescue, vehicle/machinery rescue, hazmat operations, grain bin extrication and confined

space. Personnel attended classes outside the department for Hazmat IQ, Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II and Fire Instructor and Fire Inspector. Members of the department also conducted a river rescue training for the Piqua Fire & EMS Department. In April, the department in conjunction with CXS and the local LEPC, a full scale HazMat exercise was conducted at Cargill.

On Jan. 11, Firefighter Jason Truesdale was promoted to lieutenant of the Fire Prevention office, and was joined by Firefighter Tony McLain who promoted to lieutenant on Feb. 22.

In March, we had four new members join Sidney Fire & EMS - Adam Schultze, Derek Stitzel, Caleb Dersch and Andy Zumberger. Collin Habel and Kyle Meyer became the newest members of the Operations division in June.

In April, Mark Pleiman, a 17-year member of the department, was named the 2015 Firefighter of the

Year.

The Department helped sponsor the 35th Midwestern Ohio Fire Investigators Seminar in April, and celebrated Fire Prevention month in October.

Also in 2016, City Council approved the purchase of 12.5 acres of land on Wapakoneta Avenue for a future third fire station.

"The need for a third fire station, located in the northern portion of Sidney, was identified more than two decades ago," Sidney Mayor Mike Barhorst stated. City Manager Mark Cundiff added, "We do not have the necessary resources to either build or staff a third fire station at this time. However, Council realizes that the desired property is available now and may not be in the future." This purchase was definitely a step in the right direction for the citizens of Sidney!

In 2017, the Department looks forward to continuing to serve the community.

Public Works department has range of responsibilities

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The goals for the city of Sidney Public Works team is to continue to provide the best, most efficient services to the residents while we struggle through continued tough economic times.

Public Works consists of several divisions

with a wide range of responsibilities which affect the daily lives of all of our citizens. The divisions include underground utilities, wastewater and water treatment plants, streets, traffic, engineering, public transit, Sidney airport, and fleet services.

Gary Clough, assistant city manager and Public Works director, has submitted the following report:

This is a summary of the divisions and their major responsibilities, accomplishments of 2016 and 2017 projected at a glance:

Engineering: Engineering consists of three employees who provide technical and administrative support on numerous construction projects, both public and private. These include surveying, design, contract administration, inspection, grant writing and support services for the other departments within the City. In 2016, work was completed on several major projects:

- State Route 47



Clough

Safety Improvements between Vandemark Road and Interstate 75

- 2016 Sidewalk and Curb Program
- 2016 Resurfacing and Striping Projects
- Fielding Road Reconstruction
- The following projects are scheduled for 2017:
- 2015 ODOT Urban Paving Program from Vandemark to Ohio Avenue
- State Route 47 Safety Improvements Phase 2- Vandemark to I-75

- 2017 Sidewalk and Curb Programs
- 2017 Resurfacing and Striping Programs
- Upgraded traffic Signal at SR 47 and Fourth Ave.

- New water mains on portions of Robinwood, Parkwood and 6th Ave
- New sanitary sewers on Maple St and Chestnut Ave

- New bridge on Jefferson Street over Tillberry run

Street Department:

The street department consists of 6 employees.

They are responsible for the maintenance of

112 centerline miles of roadways,

18 miles of alleys,

13 parking lots,

weed spraying, mos-

quito abatement, street

tree pruning of approxi-

mately 3,100 street

trees, snow removal,

street sweeping, 51 traf-

fic signals, 5,000 signs,

street striping main-

tenance, leaf pick-up,

and maintenance and repair of 84 street lights in the

Court Square and on

the North Street Bridge. In 2016, approximately 12.5 miles of roads were paved, 5,448 feet of curb and gutter were replaced, 5.4 miles of roadways were crack sealed, and 528 miles of roads were swept. 120 traffic signal bulbs, 2 pedestrian signals and 306 traffic signs were replaced. 29 miles of streets were restriped. 320 street trees were pruned and 2,606 cubic yards of leaves were collected. City crews also responded to 10 snow events in 2016.

Fleet Services- Fleet services consists of three employees. Fleet maintains approximately 258 pieces of rolling stock. 45 of those are for police and fire departments. In 2016, 13 units were replaced. In 2017, 10 vehicles will be replaced.

Shelby Public Transit- Shelby Public Transit provided 49,180 trips,

logged over 18,067 hours of service and

272,834 miles with

11 vehicles in 2016. This

is an average increase of 1.5% from 2015. We continue a connector route with Miami County that takes and picks up passengers from Piqua to transfer between the two County systems.

The shared labor pool throughout the City continues as needed for special events such as snow removal and leaf

pick-up which is still

affecting overall main-

tenance and operational

schedules for other

needed services that the

City provides for our infrastructure and to our residents.

Utilities Department 2016 Year in Review and Glance to 2017

The city of Sidney's Utility Department is part of the Public Works umbrella. It has 38 employees and consists of the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Underground Utilities. Underground Utilities consists of water distribution, wastewater collections, and Stormwater Maintenance and Monitoring. The following are highlights from 2016 and a glance at 2017:

Water Treatment Plant- In 2016, the Water Treatment Plant treated approximately 1.1 billion gallons of water, a 0 percent increase over 2015.

Some of the activities completed in 2016 included start of the restoration of the city's lime lagoon, and various pumps and gear boxes.

The City is wrapping up

the completion of the

new well field and trans-

mission main from the

well field to the water

treatment plant. Phase I

is expected to be opera-

tional by May, 2017

Wastewater Treatment Plant- In 2016, the WWTP treated over 1.6 billion gallons of waste-

water from the City's

sanitary sewer system.

The City also provided

additional treatment

for 623 dry tons of

biosolids. The WWTP

is operating under an

EPA NPDES operating permit that mandated changes to some of the limits of the wastewater discharge and also further regulated the elimination of wet weather bypasses. In order to comply with the new permit conditions, the city's wastewater treatment plant is completing a \$12 million expansion and process upgrade project. The city is also in year 4 of its program to eliminate wet weather infiltration sources into the sanitary sewer collection system. The WWTP will continue to meet all regulatory permit conditions. 2017 projects include the completion of construction of phase 1 of the WWTP expansion and beginning of design of phase 2.

Stormwater Monitoring- The Stormwater Monitoring program continues to maintain compliance with the

City's NPDES permit.

Some of the 2016 activi-

ties to meet the required

six minimum measures

included the Clean

Sweep of the Great

Miami River, storm

drain stenciling, distri-

bution of educational

materials to the public

on water quality issues,

enforcement of the city's

stormwater Ordinances

and inspections of the

City's stormwater sys-

tem.

Underground Utilities-

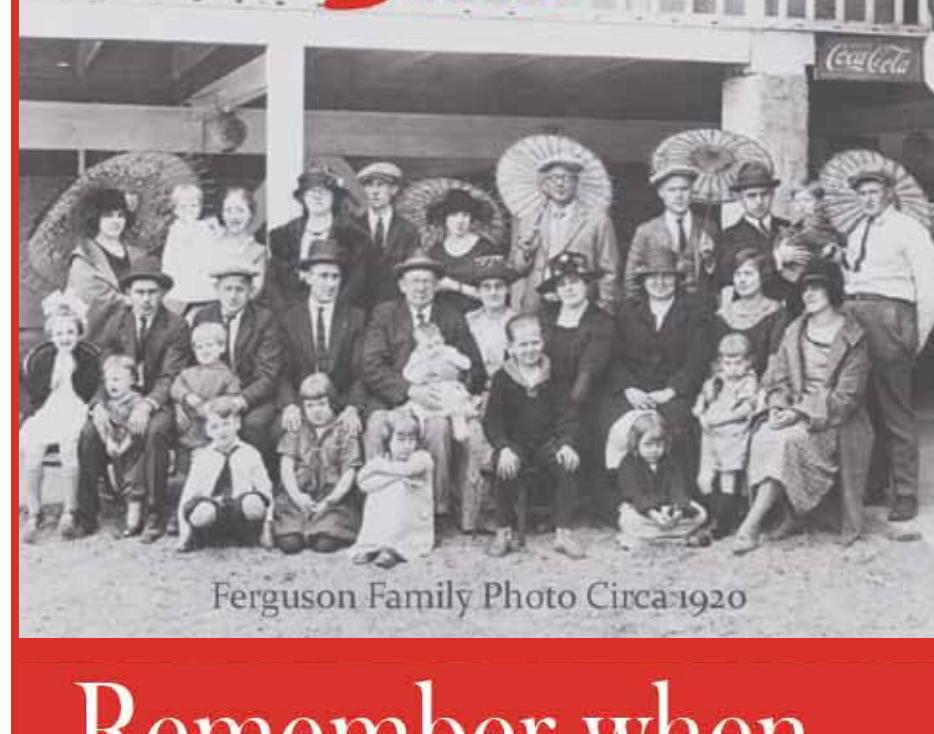
Responsibilities of this section include

the maintenance of the

water distribution sys-

tem and the sewer and

stormwater collection



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Gateway Arts Council has busy year in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — In 2016, Gateway Arts Council entered its 29th year of promoting the accessibility, creation, presentation and preservation of artistic and cultural resources for the benefit, enjoyment and enrichment of the Shelby County Community.



Keyes

"Supreme Reflections" and "Under the Streetlamp" as part of its Presents Series. All three of the performances were held at the Sidney High School Auditorium and they were all three sold out concerts.

Also in 2016 Gateway Arts Council hosted, at its offices, five different art exhibits, the Spring Fling Juried Art Competition, the Lego Design Challenge and Exhibit, and Mini Mozart's (children's piano and voice classes). The Arts Council was also able to help out other local arts organizations through funding and providing space to hold their board meetings. Gateway Arts Council held the sixth annual "Bad Art By Good People." Twenty-four local pet lovers created artwork and competed for the title of "Best Bad Artist."

In October 2016, Gateway Arts Council released an exciting documentary film, "Moving A Nation," which premiered on Oct 15-16 at the Sidney Auto-Vue Drive In Theater. The film was a tribute to the rich and inspiring story of Shelby County industry and its essential role to our county's past, present, and future. It portrayed the strength, vitality, and diversity of the men and women who work every day to make ends meet. The production captured the story of industry through the eyes of those close to it; the founders, workers, and their families. The film also was shown on television throughout Northwest Ohio.

Gateway Arts Council starts its 30th year in 2017 and many wonderful events are planned. Gateway Arts Council had a sold out crowd for "The Second City" on Feb. 12 and will also have a sold out crowd for "Liverpool Legends" on April 23. Each month the

Gateway Arts Council will host a new exhibit in the gallery. In addition, Gateway will host the Spring Fling Juried Art Competition, adult watercolor classes, Princess Ball, national touring children's shows, and the Lego Design Challenge. Gateway Arts Council is extremely grateful for the Sidney High School Auditorium and the Cameo Theater. These beautiful facilities help Gateway make the arts happen in Shelby County.

Through its many donors, sponsors, and grantors, Gateway Arts Council is proud to have become Shelby County's premier arts organization. Gateway is honored to be able to provide arts to Shelby County because to paraphrased words of one philosopher: "Art gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything."

Art is Life .. Pass it On!



"Under the Streetlamp" was one of the shows performed as part of the Presents Series sponsored by Gateway Arts Council.

Courtesy photo

Farewell to 2016 from the Treasurer's Office

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — "This year I will be leaving office as my term expires in September and a new era begins. I have had the privilege to work for the county over 32 years and served as your Treasurer for 14 years," said Shelby County Treasurer Linda Meininger.



Meininger

Meininger's report continues:

We spent several years working under difficult times and budget constraints. We always need to be positive and be prepared for the unexpected. We have competent elected officials who care deeply for the county.

With the forming of the Shelby County Land Reutilization Corporation we are moving forward to improve our city and county neighborhoods. The next three years will be very interesting to watch the progress. We have hired Douglas

Ahlers as our Land Bank director. You can reach him at 937-498-7253 or email, landbankdirector@shelbyco.net.

For the first half tax bills we have printed close to 30,000 bills and our charge to collect is \$26,095,137.18.

We are still using Tax-Ease of Ohio which is our lien company. Since we signed a contract with them late 2012, we have collected \$886,916.48 in delinquent taxes which otherwise would not have been possible.

I believe, looking forward, we will also need to offer more digital services. As long as we are mindful of the secu-

rity concerns and risks associated with each new process we adopt.

The interest rates on our investments I hope will raise more by the 2nd half of 2017. But until then, the money is invested in CDs, Agencies and Commercial Paper. They are constantly being reviewed on a monthly basis, sometimes more. So as markets change our outlook can change also.

For taxpayers 65 and older as well as the disabled there is a homestead reduction available in the Auditor's Office. Also, there is an owner occupied credit for which you can apply if you own

and live in the property.

Active military personnel are allowed an extension of payment due to House Bill 390. This extension needs to be applied for in the Treasurer's Office. The Veterans Office is always available to assist veterans and their families.

Our office will continue to help all the taxpayers in any way we can. There is no place like your home and we try to help you keep it. Our hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday. Our website is www.shelbycountytreasurer.com and the main phone

number is 937-498-7281.

On an ending note, my father was someone who always gave back to the city and county. And he gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another, he believed in me. He taught us it was important to give back and just one person can make a difference. Thank you again for the privilege and honor to make so many new friends and I hope to be remembered as a good representative for the county.

A good friend who is a freelance journalist once said "There's a whole world of firsts out there, regardless of age," so now I can explore.

Clerk of Courts begins e-filing of documents

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — Webster's Dictionary defines progress as a forward or onward movement or a gradual betterment.



Mumford

"Both of these have been true in the Shelby County Clerk of Courts Office in 2016," said Clerk of Courts Michele Mumford. "Last year the legal office went live on a new case management system. This paved the way for progressing toward electronic filing (e-filing) in 2016."

"We began receiving electronic filings on civil cases in August and on domestic cases in October," she said.

Her report continues:

In 2017, we will begin

accepting e-filing on criminal cases. While the process has not arrived at its destination it is a gradual betterment. We will continue this progress by transitioning to more electronic filings. Our updated Court Management Software has been up and running most of 2016. While we have encountered a few bumps in the road things are progressing well.

Our Title Department has spent 2016 working with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to move forward with a new Statewide Automated Title Processing System (ATPS). Shelby County was able to send a representative to participate in the final testing process for ATPS. This gives us an advantage going

into the new system since we have had the opportunity to enter practice titles and talk directly to the development team about expected software behavior.

Shelby County was one of a handful of counties that volunteered to come in on Dec. 31 and process titles to test the implementation of the new system. While we were not able to be open to the public, we were able to login to all computers and enter a couple dozen titles into the system. This gave us a chance to make sure that everything was working as expected and that we were ready to go live on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017.

The new ATPS system includes several upgrades like the ability to swipe a customer driver's license. This will help

us issue titles more efficiently and reduce typographical errors. The system will also allow us to get important information earlier in the title process. In the past if a vehicle was reported as Salvage or was reported Stolen we were not able to retrieve this information until the very end of the title process. Now we have access to this information within seconds of the time we begin to enter the title. Thanks to a connection to the National Motor Vehicle Information System (NMVTIS). The new system also works with other organizations to allow us the ability to verify the address and county of residence through GEO Coding and to verify the Vehicle Information through Vehicle Identification Number

Analysis (VINA). This will allow us to avoid errors that could cause the customer issues in getting plates or having to make corrections due to taxes being paid to the wrong county. VINA will verify the Make, Model, Body Type, and other vehicle information each time a title is issued. The new ATPS system went live at the beginning of 2017 and we are looking forward to this onward movement.

In closing, progress would not be possible without the wonderful people working in my legal and title offices. I can't say enough about how grateful I am to my staff. I am thankful for their ability to adapt and help the office move forward for the betterment of our customers in Shelby County.

Recorder's Office in charge of real estate documents

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — The Shelby County Recorder's Office is the home of Shelby County's land records. Deeds, mortgages and various documents which pertain to real estate are recorded in the Recorder's Office and are all public records. The only record maintained by the recorder which is not considered a public record is a Veteran's Discharge. Due to the personal information contained within these (social security numbers), they are not considered a public record.

"The revenue generated



Siegel

from the Recorder's Office has fluctuated up and down over the last decade," said Shelby County Recorder Jodi Siegel. "Although the revenue for 2016 is up 11 percent from 2015, it is also down 12 percent from 2006. Like every year, the interest rates and the economy will be a large factor in the number of recordings and the amount of revenue generated from the Recorder's office this coming year."

Her report continues:

Technology has been instrumental in giving companies in the real estate market another option for recording documents. Although E-filing is not new to the Shelby County

Recorder's office as it has been available for three years now, it has obviously become more popular and is no doubt going to continue to become more and more popular.

The first year E-filing was an option in Shelby County, 10 percent of recordings were filed electronically. In 2016, this number grew to 20 percent. There is reason to believe that this percentage will continue to grow each year as there are several benefits to filing document electronically. Recording documents electronically can save one both money and time.

If a document is sent electronically as opposed to mailed, it will be received nearly instantly and the sub-

mitter will have the recorded document back the same day. If there are issues with the document, it could be sent back to the submitter and returned by submitter for recording all in the same day.

When mailing documents, you may be looking at a one week delay if being sent in the mail and needs to be sent back unrecorded due to one issue or another. Next day delivery is also an option, but the cost involved with sending documents this way is also quite a bit more.

Technology was also instrumental in another change in the Recorder's Office in 2016. Indexes have been available on the web for several years, but you are now able to also

view many documents on line. Documents from 2001 forward (with the exception of large plats) are viewable and printable on line. This allows title searchers the opportunity to work from remote sites and in some instances completing all of their work without visiting the Recorder's Office. This also allows individuals the ability to obtain copies of their recorded documents (depending on when it was recorded) from home.

Please feel free to visit the Recorder's office to research any real estate records and we will be happy to assist you. Our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Visitors Bureau reaches 5 million people in 2016

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — As has been its mission since inception in 2002, increasing the regional visibility of Sidney and Shelby County as a recreation travel option continued as the primary focus of the Sidney Visitors Bureau last year.

"The promotion efforts of the Sidney Visitors Bureau reached more than 5 million people in 2016," said President Jeff Raible. "In total, the Visitors Bureau fulfilled more than 8,100 personal requests for information about events, attractions, and hotels in the



Raible

Sidney area. All requests received a formal reply through the mail that included a cover letter accompanied by a Sidney

Visitors Guide and seasonally specific information about upcoming events and attractions. Email replies that included an electronic version of the visitor's guide with link to the Visitors Bureau web site were also sent when possible."

His report continues: Newspaper, magazine, and electronic advertising were each used to reach would-be travelers. The Bureau placed advertisements in travel and family oriented consumer magazines, major newspaper inserts,

and the Ohio Travel Guide. In addition, an increasing number of ads were placed in what is today the most prevalent form of travel promotion —electronic advertising and the internet. E-newsletter ads, online articles, web site banner advertisements, the State of Ohio travel app, and listings with links on travel related web sites are just a few examples of how the Sidney area was promoted using a variety electronic tools. Targeted, broadcast email strategies were also employed.

For the fourth year in a row, the Sidney Visitors Bureau partnered with neighboring Visitors Bureaus in Darke, Miami, Auglaize, Mercer and

Van Wert counties to exhibit at the AAA Great Vacation Expo in Columbus. This annual three-day show is well attended by consumers looking for both day trip and overnight vacation getaways. In total the Sidney Visitors Bureau handed out 900-plus packets of information to patrons visiting our booth. According to AAA, more than 10,000 attended the show.

Brochure distribution services were another effective promotional tool for the Bureau in 2016. The Sidney Visitors Bureau distributed its area visitor guide at rack locations along Interstate 75 from Toledo, Ohio to Chattanooga, Tennessee and along Interstate 69 and Interstate 70 in

Indiana. In addition, guides were strategically displayed in a number of Ohio Department of Transportation Travel Information Centers across the state.

Event support comprised yet another of our major marketing efforts last year. We assisted with the promotion of many area events to include the Mayfest Soccer Classic, Shelby

County Fair, the Shelby County Historical Society's Living History Weekend, Downtown Sidney activities, Alumapalooza, Country Concert, the Rebel Run Rod & Custom Nationals Show, Buckeye Farm Antiques Show, Ohio Jersey Breeders Show, Shelby County Farm

Tour, and many others.

The Visitors Bureau website, www.visit-sidneyshelby.com saw significant traffic and improved site engagement in 2016 as evidenced by data gathered using Google Analytics. Search Engine Marketing strategies using Google AdWords also contributed significantly to growing web site traffic for the Bureau.

Further, an emphasis on social media promotion last year saw significant impact particularly on Facebook where Sidney Visitors Bureau reach increased 13 times over that of the year before. Twitter and Instagram were also regularly used to reach follows on those social media channels.

FISH provides a hand up, not a hand out

For the Sidney Daily News

SIDNEY — FISH of Shelby County Inc. celebrated 34 years of service to the community in 2016.



Gillman

every year."

Her report continues: Our customer base has increased quite a bit beyond our local community. We have people shopping with us from Lima and Dayton, along with other counties. These people not only shop with us, they support us with nice donations. We feel very fortunate that we had not had to increase our prices since before we moved and as long as we can continue to operate on a positive scale we will keep our prices the same. Our purpose is to help as many people as possible

with needed items.

After some discussion, planning, and a lot of research, we were able to have a security system installed and we can monitor areas of our shop at all times. We hope we never have to make use of this, but it is comforting to know we are protected. We also installed a slightly tinted window covering on our large front windows to cut down on the glare that comes in on bright days. It will also protect our merchandise from fading. We feel both of these additions make our shop a better place to shop for everyone.

We were able to add

respiratory prescriptions to the list of medications we already cover; blood pressure, heart, diabetes and some infections. We do not cover any controlled substance medications. We also had our first "Prom Dress Event." We asked for donations of these dresses and received a great response. We then had a special day and invited all high school girls to come in and purchase a beautiful dress for \$10 each and be entered into a drawing for gift certificates of jewelry, shoes, flowers, hair and food to help make the evening special for these girls.

We feel it is our pur-

pose to give back to our community and we have been fortunate to do that by supporting other organizations that include The Senior Center, Christmas Community Dinner, Senior Day at the Shelby County fair, Serenity House, summer lunch in the park for children, Lunch Bunch, Comforting Kids, and St. Vincent De Paul of Sidney.

We were able to help provide food for 1,301 adults and 1,151 children in 2016. Thirty-one families were able to get needed school supplies and book bags to help make their child's school year get off to a better

start. We provided 84 pair of steel toed shoes to our citizens to help them secure a job, along with needed clothing. Some of these people had secured a job but didn't have the needed items. We feel it is important to help these people get back into the work system.

Our year ended with sad news that our founder, Barbara Smith, had passed away. We will strive to continue the legacy of this lovely lady by helping everyone in our community live a better life and make FISH bigger and better in 2017. We pride ourselves in giving people a hand up, not a hand out.

Progress is made by those who strive to attain their greatest potential.



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Access



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4,000 Urgent Care visits

16,500 Occupational Health visits



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Support



\$487,795 total donations in 2016:

- 71 Wilson Society members
- 1930 Club generated close to \$62,660
- \$79,000 donated to support Wilson Health Hospice

Community Benefit

- Free and Discounted Care - over \$7 million in 2016
- Community Health Fairs
- Diabetes Education
- Smoking Cessation Classes
- Preventative Screenings
- Youth Health Education Programs
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