



# CHAMPAIGN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

"WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS"



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LANE YODER  
OF ELLE A. DESIGN

## THE CEP WELCOMES TONIA FEINSTEIN

BY CHELSEA BRAY OF ELLE A. DESIGN

Mark currently works as a legal advisor with CEP and has been an attorney in the area for 30 years. He also recently opened The NottaDog Café in Downtown Urbana!

Before she became the Administrative Assistant at the CEP, Tonia worked as a secretary for her husband at his private practice. Mark is also the legal advisor at the CEP, which is where Tonia met Marcia for the first time and learned about the open position. She has spent a lot of time at the office learning what the CEP does and when the position became available she knew she had to interview for it.

Tonia has found herself passionate about economic development and wishes she would have known how exciting it was earlier in life. She had been a stay-at-home mom for many years and was excited to get back into the workforce. Her children have been very supportive of her new role and encourage her every day! She has three girls - ages 19, 20, and 22 - and two boys - ages 8 and 15, all of whom are very excited about her new job.

Her daughters are all grown and out of the house, but her boys are still at home. When they moved to the area they enrolled in West Liberty-Salem schools and Tonia has been thrilled with that decision. She said that a small school system is something they are accustomed to, and that hometown feeling has helped the boys transition to their new life here.

Although she may not originally be from the area, her passion for small towns and dedication to helping small businesses makes her the perfect fit for the CEP and their mission.

URBANA, OHIO – The CEP wants to welcome Tonia Feinstein to our team as our new Administrative Assistant.

Having grown up in Pleasant Hill, Ohio finds comfort in the small-town life and said that is one of the things that attracted her to the area. It has made her feel right at home and has given her a sense of familiarity, even while trying to navigate life in a new town.

Tonia, her husband Mark, and their family relocated to the area four years ago.

## MARCIA BAILEY PLANS TO RETIRE

BY MACKENZIE TASTAN OF URBANA DAILY CITIZEN

Marcia Bailey, Director of the Champaign Economic Partnership (CEP), is retiring at the end of the year.

She hopes that the person who is hired to replace her will bring his/ her own ideas about how to help Champaign County grow and their enthusiasm and knowledge

for existing projects like the redevelopment of Urbana University's campus.

Overall, Bailey leaves behind a legacy of hope, perseverance and the belief that neighbors should look out for one another and help each other to grow.

**FULL ARTICLE:** [www.cepohio.com/news/marcia-bailey-retiring-from-cep-position](http://www.cepohio.com/news/marcia-bailey-retiring-from-cep-position)

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# CEP NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY CHAMPAIGN ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

URBANA, OHIO – Champaign Economic Partnership (CEP) has named Richard Ebert as its Executive Director of Champaign Economic Partnership.

Ebert will fully assume the role following the retirement of longtime Executive Director Marcia Bailey at the end of the year. Bailey, who has served the CEP since its inception, knows that Ebert is the right fit to continue the growing partnership between business and government in our community.

“Richard Ebert as the incoming Executive Director will be a welcome addition to the Champaign Economic Partnership,” Bailey said. “His previous work experience and knowledge of the community is a vital asset to this position. Richard is a lifelong resident of Urbana/Champaign County and will have the best

interest of the community in this new role. I look forward to seeing Champaign County continue to flourish.”

As a lifelong resident of Urbana, small business owner and fervent servant of his community, Ebert knows the importance of making connections that benefit the community.

“We have experienced a tremendous amount of growth over the past few years. I want to continue assisting with that growth and look forward to finding solutions for our county businesses,” explained Ebert upon the announcement of his appointment.

Ebert goes on to share that working with Bailey certainly influenced his plan to expand current economic development. “My goal is to continue to grow CEP, create new opportunities and continue to look for ways to make connections between entities that benefit so many people.”

Ebert’s roots run deep in his community. He is both an alum of Urbana High School and the former Urbana University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and Human Service Leadership.

While serving professionally in many capacities, he most recently worked under the umbrella of the Champaign County Clerk of Courts as an Assistant Manager with the Champaign County BMV. He currently owns an entertainment business, Ebert Entertainment, where he is the DJ/ Master of Ceremonies, served as an elected

official for Urbana City Council and he and his wife have both owned small businesses located in Monument Square. His volunteer work includes being a member and chair for the City of Urbana Planning Commission and Urbana City Schools as the voice of the Urbana High School Marching Band.

Ebert says he has always had a calling to work within the business community of his hometown. “What Marcia has created, in essence, is a dream job. Our local county businesses are so vitally important. Being able to better serve them and the county communities is something I feel very strongly about.”

Kyle Hall, President of The Hall Company and President of CEP Board of Trustees shared his excitement for the future of Champaign County with Ebert onboard, “Richard has demonstrated a passion for Champaign County’s success over the years and is excited to get started. We look forward to seeing continued growth for our county and its towns and cities as we move forward.”

Ebert plans to hit the ground running.

“I am looking forward to meeting and talking to the business leaders and employers in our community. I am also excited to meet with the county villages and find out their hopes and dreams for their economic development,” he said. “I look forward to finding where I can be of the most assistance and really talk about strengths and opportunities where CEP can benefit those we serve.”



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# SUTPHEN CORPORATION BREAKS GROUND ON NEW 185,000-SQUARE-FOOT FACILITY IN URBANA

BY SUTPHEN CORPORATION



DUBLIN, OHIO – Sutphen Corporation, the nation's largest family-owned and operated fire apparatus manufacturer with headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, officially broke ground today on a new 185,000-square-foot facility. The new facility will be constructed at 935 S. Edgewood Avenue, Urbana, Ohio 43078.

The new facility will combine Sutphen's three Urbana operations into one location and retain Sutphen's existing 160 jobs in Urbana while adding an additional 20 to 25 jobs to the area. The new operation will also significantly increase Sutphen's production capabilities.

"This new facility will provide an incredible opportunity for our family's business and for the city of Urbana to grow together," said Sutphen Corporation President Drew Sutphen, a fourth-generation family member. "For the last 131 years, our family business has worked to build the safest, most reliable fire apparatus in the world. This step will help ensure that our family continues doing the same for the next 131 years."

Sutphen Corporation vice president and president of Sutphen's Hilliard, Ohio, facility, Julie Sutphen Phelps said, "Our family and business values were instilled in us by our forefathers who laid the groundwork for where we are today. All of us in the fourth generation have worked hard to instill these core values in the fifth generation, and we are excited

to see where future generations of Sutphens take our family business."

The 185,000-square-foot facility will be built upon 55 acres of former farmland that will provide ample room for further expansion in the future.

"This is an investment in the future of Sutphen and an investment in the future of our community," said general manager of Sutphen's Urbana operations, Todd Winnenberg. "It is an exciting time to be a part of Sutphen and an incredible family to work for. We are actively hiring for open positions right now."

Winnenberg continued by saying that the 20 to 25 additional jobs are being filled right now. The new positions will work at one of the three Urbana facilities until the new location opens. Once open, the positions will migrate to the new location.

"The Champaign Economic Partnership (CEP) is extremely pleased to join in the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Sutphen Corporation facility," CEP Director Marcia Bailey said. "We are so grateful to the Sutphen family for their investment in Urbana and Champaign County. Their contribution to our community is significant with their investment and job creation. We look forward to a bright future and continued partnership."

**FULL ARTICLE:** <https://www.sutphen.com/sutphen-corporation-breaks-ground-on-new-185000-square-foot-facility-in-urbana/>

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS!

### ST. PARIS

It Takes a Village Café has opened in St. Paris. Their motto is "Where Coffee is Served, There is Friendship, Happiness, and Grace." They are offering local delivery, daily specials, and take out. Currently they are open Monday-Saturday from 8am-2pm. You can call them at (937) 663-7193 to place an order or find out about their specials.

### NORTH LEWISBURG

N&F Performance is a new business located North Lewisburg. They are an auto repair and performance shop that services all makes and models, but specializes in General Motors. Cody Nobbs is the owner and can be reached at [nandfperformance@gmail.com](mailto:nandfperformance@gmail.com) or (937) 707-2828 via call or text. He has been hosting monthly car shows with vendors and food trucks in his lot at his Sycamore Street location. Find N&F Performance on Facebook to learn more!

### MECHANICSBURG

Very soon Champaign County's Habitat for humanity will begin their twelfth build in Mechanicsburg. This time for the Knox family. If you would like to provide a volunteer lunch or be a part of the build, please reach out to Marcia Balmut Ward on Facebook. Everyone deserves decent housing!



# INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES IN THE CITY OF URBANA

BY CHELSEA BRAY OF ELLE A. DESIGN

URBANA, OHIO – Two major infrastructure updates have been ongoing in the city of Urbana during 2021. The first is the sidewalk, curb, and gutter replacement project. Each year the city bids out its concrete work with jobs ranging from pouring cemetery headstone foundations to restoring roadway cuts. In 2021, the contract will also be utilized for the sidewalk, curb and gutter program for owners who were not able to have the replacement work completed on their own. Some highlights of the projects and areas included are listed below:

- A sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement program for Washington Avenue covers spot repairs as marked and precedes paving under the city program.
- A wholesale curb, gutter, and driveway approach replacement along Scioto Street precedes ODOT's urban paving program for Scioto Street.
- The CDBG PY2019 Freeman Avenue Improvements Project fully replaces curbs and gutters along Freeman Avenue and provides for spot repairs to sidewalks. Street repaving is also included. The project is funded primarily by a Community Development Block Grant.

In addition to these repairs and replacements of sidewalks, curbs, and gutters, many of the streets will also be repaved or have spot repairs made. Scioto Street will be repaved as part of ODOT's urban paving program. Washington Avenue will be repaved under the city program. Freeman Avenue is being repaved by funding from a Community Development Block Grant.

Many other streets in the area will need repaved soon and have all undergone evaluation under the PCR rating system. ODOT uses the PCR system to suggest treatments and schedules for their roads. You can see the list of PCRs and list of streets being considered for paving in the next five years here: <https://www.urbanaohio.com/infrastructure-improvements.html>

The second major project that is underway in Urbana is the water meter replacement program. The city is in contract with EJP, who will manage the project through completion. The installation of the water meters will be performed by Professional Meters Inc. (PMI), a subcontractor for EJP.

It was estimated that 5,000 water meters will need to be replaced between residential and commercial properties in the city of Urbana. They currently have 2,538 left to install leaving the project about 40%

complete as of now. The project is still on track to be completed in the spring of 2022.

During Urbana City Council meeting on September 21, Joe Sampson also brought up the Environmental Engineering Services – Water Fund. The purpose is to get a new booster station at the city park. Adding the new booster to the east side of town would put an extra 300-400 gallons of water into the system which would help with water pressure and would be needed if there was ever a line failure.

The design for the new system is set to be complete by mid-November with hopes that the project could begin spring or early summer is 2022. The motion passed and the project is currently in the design and funding stage. In its entirety, the new water boosters project will cost approximately 3 million dollars and the city is looking into grants and loans to finance it.

So far in 2021, approximately \$800,000 has been invested in the infrastructure of Urbana. Mr. Brugger, the Director of Administration in Urbana, commented at the recent council meeting that he was glad to see Council's pride to see the value of infrastructure and doing projects for the community.



3 Monument Square, Urbana, OH 43078 | (937) 653-7200 | [www.cepohio.com](http://www.cepohio.com)

## PARTNERSHIP INVESTOR HIGHLIGHT

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