



Developments

Economic Development News in Champaign County, Ohio

Summer 2017



Navistar Warehouse Progressing Toward December 2017 Completion

The Champaign Economic Partnership (CEP) took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for Navistar's 355,522-square-foot warehouse and distribution facility at the Urbana Industrial Park, 915 Phoenix Dr.

Representing the CEP in the photo above are board member Kyle Hall, far left, and beginning third from right, Urbana Mayor (and CEP board member) Bill Bean, CEP Director Marcia Bailey and CEP President Todd Michael.



Bailey and the CEP assisted Navistar and Damewood Enterprises, which owns

the 24 acres where the warehouse is being built, in obtaining a 10-year, 100% Community Reinvestment Act tax abatement for the \$12 million facility. The warehouse will employ 114 employees now working in Navistar's current Urbana facility on Edgewood Avenue, plus 27 Navistar employees transferred from Xenia and 13 new full-time employees – for a total payroll of \$6.789 million.

Survey Results to Aid Local Manufacturers

The CEP is offering Champaign County manufacturers newly published survey results to help them recruit and retain critically needed engineers.

The full report of the survey, conducted by FASTLANE, west central Ohio's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the CEP, can be obtained by contacting info@cepohio.com or 937-653-7200.



Following are a few highlights:

- 81% of the engineers want to continue working in Champaign County. They like the small-town feel – *though they would like more housing, dining and entertainment options.*
- 27% of the engineers grew up in Champaign County and stayed or returned because of the community.
- 86% of the engineers are younger than 49
- More than half of the engineers commute less than half an hour. Champaign County, within a 50-mile radius of Dayton and Columbus, is an easy commute.
- 87% of the engineers believe their employer provides competitive benefits

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Progress Being Made on Q3 JMC Property

The City of Urbana in mid-May gained title to the vacant Q3 JMC property at 605 Miami Street, free and clear of delinquent taxes. Since then the city has been removing overgrown vegetation and securing the property to keep trespassers out, Urbana Director of Administration Kerry Brugger said.

He added that an environmental cleanup of the nearly 20-acre property will begin once all plans are finalized.

In a separate agreement between the city and Honeywell, he added, Honeywell has agreed to clean up soil contamination this fall in an approximately four-acre section of the property that had been used by a division of Grimes Manufacturing that Honeywell acquired.

Clean up of the entire property will allow it to be returned to productive commercial use. The property has been unused since 2008, when Q3 JMC, Inc. ceased operations.

CEP Welcomes New Administrative Assistant



Hannah Tukesbrey Kilbride, the Champaign Economic Partnership's new administrative assistant, enjoys her role helping advance economic development in her home county. Kilbride is a Triad High School graduate who received her bachelor's degree in political science this spring at Ohio University.

She's coordinating two special projects this summer for the CEP:

- A booth at the Champaign County Fair to promote local manufacturing career opportunities (see article below)
- Inventors Camp at the Champaign Family YMCA, (see article at right)

CEP Director Marcia Bailey said, "It's great to have someone from the community move back after college to make a difference. With her love of Champaign County and her education and professional skills, Hannah will be a real asset in marketing Champaign County for economic development and growth."

Fair Booth to Feature New Job Board, Local Manufacturers

Community Job Connect (CJC), Champaign County's new local online job board, will be featured at the manufacturing/CEP booth in the Merchants Building at the Champaign County Fair, Aug. 4-11.

A computer will be set up in the booth to allow visitors to view CJC (communityjobconnect.com) for current job openings. The job board is also available on CEP's website, CEPOhio.com.

The booth also will feature information and displays of products made by several local companies.

High school students from Triad, Urbana and Graham will help staff the booth, which is being coordinated through a partnership of the CEP, the Champaign County Manufacturers Human Resources Council and Ohio Hi-Point Career Center. For a chance to win prizes, visitors can spin a wheel and answer questions about local manufacturers.

Jill O'Neal, human resources manager at WEIDMANN and a CEP board member, said, "Fair visitors will gain valuable information about the great and amazing things that are produced in Champaign County and how the products are used around the globe."

Trisha Church of KTH Parts Industries and Hannah Tukesbrey Kilbride, CEP administrative assistant, joined O'Neal in planning the booth. O'Neal and Ashlie Starkey, also with WEIDMANN, developed the CJC job board.



Children working on a project at Inventors Camp last summer at the Champaign Family YMCA.

Camp to Introduce Kids to Manufacturing Careers

As part of a local effort to introduce youth to career opportunities in high-tech manufacturing, representatives of local manufacturers will lead hands-on activities for 32 children at Inventors Camp, July 31 to Aug. 4, at the Champaign Family YMCA.

The Y, the Champaign County Manufacturers Human Resources Council, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center and the CEP are partnering in the camp. The children will be divided into two groups – ages 6-8 and 9-12 – with age appropriate activities, Lin Giampetro, manager of culture development at Sarica Manufacturing, explained.

The first day of the camp will include a field trip to the Fab Lab in Marysville, which features technology used in manufacturing facilities.

Representatives of Sarica Manufacturing, WEIDMANN Electrical Technology, Johnson Welded Products, Inc., Rit-tal and ORBIS Corporation will provide activities that simulate manufacturing operations. In addition, representatives of Robert Rothschild Farm, WEIDMANN and the Hall Company will talk with the campers about their careers and present samples of their companies' products.

The camp is part of the Y's Summer Day Camp. Camp Director Nicky Naylor said, "The campers gain self-confidence along with experiences that will help shape their future."

Paul Waldsmith, CEO of the Champaign Family YMCA and a CEP board member, said, "While the average elementary age child hasn't established a career pathway, the great experiences provided by our Champaign County manufacturing partners in the Inventors Camp greatly enhance a child's, and their parents', understanding of how science and technology are utilized by local manufacturers."

The children's projects will be displayed at the CEP/Manufacturers Council booth at the Champaign County Fair.

'OPEN' for Business

The CEP recently celebrated the opening of several new businesses. As part of our Champaign County: Open for Business campaign, we presented them "open" flags as seen in photos on this page.

Hannah Tukesbrey Kilbride of the CEP with Sharon Wallace, who opened NaCl Salt Spa with her husband, Brad, at 646 Bodey Circle, Urbana.



Ribbon cutting for The Studio and Fine Art Gallery, 119 Scioto St. Urbana, owned by Pat and Patsy Thackery,



Vicki Deere-Bunnell of Monument Square District and CEP Director Marcia Bailey are in the top photo at left with Kambe Mabry, owner of The Rusty Brush, 114 Scioto St., Urbana, and in the photo below with Michelle Smith, the new owner of Kaleidoscope, 117 N. Main St., Urbana.



Fresh Approach to Farming

Vic Kaczowski stands in the greenhouse of Old Souls Farms, which he owns and operates with Ethan Snyder near St. Paris.

Snyder and Kaczowski grow several varieties of head lettuce, specialty greens, herbs and microgreens – 365 days a year – in a sleek, well-engineered 100-by-100-foot hydroponic greenhouse. The hydroponic system continuously circulates nutrient-enriched rainwater (collected from the greenhouse roof) to the plants' roots. Water not used by the plants is recirculated.

Old Souls Farms will put a second 100-by-100-foot greenhouse into operation in January to meet growing demand. The farm's largest customer is Whole Foods in Columbus. Others include independent groceries, restaurants and farmers' markets, and soon, Whole Foods' Dayton and Cincinnati stores.

The farm just started a new service for local produce growers: custom processing and packaging.

For more of the story, visit CEPOhio.com and oldsoulsfarm.com.



Established businesses and organizations may also obtain "open" flags from the CEP. In the above photo, at left, Jade Thomas and stepson Shawn Stump, stand in front of Jade's Fades and Shades, a full-service barbershop at 109 N. Locust St., Urbana, that offers haircuts, straight razor shaves, men's facial treatments and more. In the photo on the right, Hannah Tukesbrey Kilbride (right), administrative assistant of the CEP, presents an "open" flag to Lydia Hess, director of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.



CEP/Garden Partnership Thriving

Charlene Stapleton (second from right), manager of the Market Street Community Garden, stands with four Champaign County master gardeners who tend plots at the garden and advise other gardeners – from left, Julia Robertson, Kathy Haney, Paddy Barr and Jinny Bowers.

The community garden started in 2010 as a partnership of the Champaign County Community Improvement Corporation (now operating as the Champaign Economic Partnership) and the Champaign Family YMCA's Activate Champaign County program. The CEP owns the lot, at 222 E. Market St., Urbana, and leases it to the Y for \$1 a month. The garden began with 25 raised beds and 17 gardeners and has since grown to 30 beds, and a butterfly garden, tended by 35 gardeners. Six of them have been with the gardens since the start.

Fifteen of the gardeners, many of whom live in apartments and don't have room to garden at home, live within three city blocks of the garden. Another nine live within a mile. Gardeners have been donating some of their harvest to local food pantries.

Meet CEP Board Members

The CEP, Champaign County's designated economic development agency, is a public/private partnership led by a board of 19 members, about 70 percent from the private sector.

We introduce two of them here. You can see the full roster on the Contact page of CEPOhio.com.

Dan Kaffenbarger, superintendent of the Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center, who serves as the CEP's education representative.

Jill O'Neal, human resource operations manager for WEIDMANN Electrical Technology, as the CEP's human resources representative. She serves on the Champaign County Manufacturers Human Resources Council.



Kaffenbarger



O'Neal

Memorial Health Becomes Newest CEP Business Sponsor

Memorial Health is the newest private sponsor supporting the Champaign Economic Partnership's economic development mission in Champaign County.



Other private sponsors include Dayton Power and Light, KTH Parts Industries, Inc. and Pioneer Electric Cooperative, at the Benefactor Level, and Security National Bank, at the Friend Level. Memorial Health is a Patron Level sponsor.

CEP is also supported by local government sponsors, the Champaign County commissioners and the City of Urbana.

To learn how your business can become a CEP sponsor: click on "Partnership Investors" on the "About CEP" tab on the home page of CEPOhio.com, or call CEP Director Marcia Bailey at 937-653-7200.

Making Connections with Brazil

CEP board member Kyle Hall and CEP Director Marcia Bailey attended a recent Dayton Development Coalition networking event at the Engineers Club in Dayton. They discussed potential partnership opportunities with representatives of several companies from Brazil.

Bailey provided them packets of information about Champaign County and how to work with the CEP for business development.

Hall, who is president of the Hall Company in Urbana, said, "We are always looking for new avenues to expand our international footprint. As a business owner, I appreciate the partnership between the CEP and the DDC to have opportunities such as this one. We are optimistic this could lead to some new opportunities for us."

Contact Us

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