

Study Taking Inventory of County Housing Supply

The CEP is taking an important step to keep Champaign County on its upward trajectory of economic growth – and to promote population growth by assuring a future of affordable and accessible housing to meet the needs of families attracted to Champaign County by growing employment opportunities.

The CEP, with the support of the Champaign County commissioners, has helped launch a comprehensive housing market study to assess our housing market and set the course for keeping Champaign County an attractive, desirable place to live. As well as a desirable place for new businesses to locate and existing businesses to expand and create jobs.

The study is being conducted by the Greater Ohio Poli-

cy Center (GOPC) with support of the county commissioners and conveyance fees paid on local real estate sales. The GOPC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving Ohio communities through smart growth strategies and research.

"We need to assess our current housing market to help Champaign County stay competitive in attracting new business and supporting business growth," CEP Director Marcia Bailey said. "This study will help define our path to planning and developing housing. This might include new construction, renovation of existing housing stock and developing more downtown upper floor living."

She adds, "The availability of housing is a key consideration of businesses when they choose a community to build or expand in."

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Sneak Peek at Exciting News

Stay tuned for details about a new website that's on the way – ChampaignWorks – and how you can help by linking other community websites to enhance the CEP's efforts to market our community to visitors, people looking for jobs, businesses looking for a place to locate, and people looking for a great place to live.



The world's largest loaf of bread: The sign you're at Bundy Baking Solutions in Urbana.

Bundy Baking Solutions Supports CEP as Champion Level Partner

Bundy Baking Solutions, with U.S. headquarters in Urbana, is the CEP's newest Champion Level partner investor.

"As one of the larger employers in our area that's had roots in the community since 1967, it's important for us to have a role in moving the partnership and economic development forward," says Tom Coles, the company's Vice President of Human Resources. Champion Level is the ultimate partnership the CEP offers to businesses. Eighteen businesses are currently CEP investors.

The CEP's partnership of business, education and local government, he said, "builds a strong foundation for the community to attract new business and maintain existing businesses."

Bundy Baking Solutions is a leading maker of commercial and consumer baking equipment,

products and services. Bundy, which serves many of the world's largest and most successful bakeries, includes six companies that employ 330 in Urbana, 50 in Mansfield, Westerville and Sunbury, and 2,000 in other U.S. and international locations.

CEP Supports Workforce Efforts

Coles credits Ashley Cook, the CEP's Business Liaison, for helping businesses like Bundy partner with local schools to introduce students to local jobs and prepare them for the workforce. "This wouldn't have happened without Ashley being at the

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CEP Liaison Role Expands to Health

CEP Business Liaison Ashley Cook's role will expand this next school year through an agreement between the CEP and Ohio Hi-Point Career Center, for whom she teaches supply chain management at Urbana High School.



Ashley Cook

This past year as CEP business liaison, Cook coordinated activities to bring students, schools and manufacturing employers together to introduce students to local career opportunities and to help educators prepare students for these opportunities.

In the new school year, she will broaden her focus to also include local health care career opportunities.

CEP Director Marcia Bailey said, "Ashley has done a tremendous job. The Champaign County Manufacturing Council has praised her for opening students' eyes and minds to the rewarding careers available to them here in Champaign County."

Cook has helped:

- Coordinate job fairs and career presentations in schools and businesses
- Develop a series of YouTube videos that provide an inside look at local manufacturing companies, featuring interviews with young employees who share their experience and preparation for their jobs
- Inform schools and students about internship, job shadowing and employment opportunities
- Coordinate job signing ceremonies to help students and graduates celebrate being hired by local companies

In the new school year, Cook will continue to work with supporting manufacturers and expand her focus to also introduce students to health care careers at Memorial Health, Champaign Residential Services Inc. and Mercy Health-Urbana Hospital.

"Memorial Health is excited to partner with the CEP and the health care business liaison efforts – seeing the successes they have had in the manufacturing arena," Robin Coffey, Communications and PR Specialist for Memorial Health and CEP board member, said.

Besides being financially supported by the participating businesses, the business liaison position is funded by DP&L, Clark State Community College and FASTLANE.



After signing employment contracts at Bundy Baking Solutions in Urbana are, seated from left, Brock Bennett, a TIG welder; Alivia Whitt, a press operator; and Lexis Bennett, graphic designer in the marketing department. The three completed internships with the company.

Job Signing Ceremonies Celebrate Graduates' Decision to Work in Champaign County

Partnering with schools and businesses, the CEP has been focusing on better preparing students to join the local workforce. And the CEP helps students and graduates celebrate, with signing ceremonies, when local companies hire them for internships and jobs.

Ashley Cook, CEP's Business Liaison, works with the Champaign County Human Resources Manufacturers Council to coordinate the ceremonies.

Above and below are photos from recent signing ceremonies at Bundy

Baking Solutions, ORBIS and Rittal. More are being planned.

Tom Coles, Vice President of Human Resources for Bundy Baking Solutions, says, "I believe that students at the high school and university level should be recognized when they make the decision to stay in Champaign County, and we should share the students' success with our community.

"The relationship of our companies with the local schools is very important to the continued success of both our community and businesses," Coles said.



Caty Shoemaker, seated at center, signs an employment agreement for her scheduling and purchasing internship at ORBIS Corporation in Urbana. Shoemaker will graduate in December from Urbana University.



Nick Reynolds, seated at left, and Gage Cassell sign their internship agreements at Rittal North America in Urbana. Their internships will lead up to the second year of their associate degree studies in mechanical engineering technology at Clark State Community College.

Roundabout Improvement Project Progressing

Progress continues on the Monument Square Roundabout Project, with expected completion on October 31, reports Kerry Brugger, Urbana's Director of Administration.

"Despite the heavy rains this spring and summer, the project crews have focused on staying close to schedule," he says. "We appreciate the cooperation of the downtown businesses and citizens as we move through this significant infrastructure upgrade."

The project includes installation of new water lines and roundabout design changes to improve traffic flow and vehicular and pedestrian safety.



Urbana Mayor Bill Bean recently spoke with downtown Urbana merchants about the Roundabout project at Let's Eat Cake. They're holding Urbana t-shirts being sold to support downtown marketing.

The first two phases of the project have been completed: a new apron around the base of the monument to accommodate trucks and work on the first block of North Main Street, which reopened to traffic July 8.

Also on July 8, work began on the first block of Scioto Street. Speaking on behalf of downtown merchants, Tina Knotts, owner of Let's Eat Cake, 117 Scioto St., said, "This is for our benefit – a project that's needed." She said that the new



Traffic resumes on North Main Street, using new roundabout features.

water lines will support businesses and loft apartments that are being developed above stores.

"We're excited about how the changes will slow traffic and provide safer crosswalks for pedestrians."

In the meantime, she said merchants are making accommodations to help customers. She added, "Yes, the street may be closed, but the sidewalks are open, and the businesses are open."

When the project is complete, merchants will announce plans for a celebration, she said.

Bundy Baking Solutions Appreciates Support from CEP

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table – we all have businesses to run. She's helped us get our foot in the door with career counselors to let them know about the jobs that are available. There's plenty of opportunity here."

A new way to get the word out, he said, are signing ceremonies that the CEP plans for students and new graduates when they begin jobs or internships at local companies.

Newspaper and social media accounts of a ceremony at Bundy for three new hires resulted in an uptick in applications. Coles said that about 15 applicants mentioned the publicity and about 10 parents came in with their teens to inquire about jobs. From this, one parent and five students were hired.

Bundy offers opportunities with on-the-job training for high school students wanting to go straight into the workforce, as well as jobs for college graduates. Coles said Urbana University graduates have recently accepted positions in mar-

keting and information technology.



BUNDY
Baking Solutions

Bundy also offers opportunities for high school students to work during non-school hours, leading up to graduation,

when they can work full time.

To learn how to become an investor, to support CEP's economic development mission, visit cepohio.com/partnership-investors.html, or call the CEP at 937-653-7200.

Acquisition Gives H&P Full Airfield Lighting Line

Hughey & Phillips (H&P) of Urbana now offers a complete line of FAA-approved airfield lighting fixtures, thanks to the company's recent acquisition of the airfield lighting product line from Astronics DME, a subsidiary of Astronics Corporation, based in East Aurora, NY.

This product line is unique in LED technology, which includes elevated, in-pavement guidance lighting and airfield-regulated power solutions.

H&P CEO Steve Schneider said, "The airfield lighting product line acquisition from Astronics DME strengthens our core business and is a great fit for our strategic direction. We are excited to expand our airfield lighting products and resources to our customers around the globe."

H&P is a global leader in the design and manufacture of airfield and obstruction lighting technology, offering complete solutions for lighting systems, designed and manufactured by H&P in the US, including strobe and LED offerings.

The expansion of H&P's product offerings rounds out its already-robust portfolio to provide H&P customers more choices and a larger team of specialists to design, develop, manufacture and deliver to exact requirements.

Housing Study Underway

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Alison Goebel, PhD, GOPC Executive Director, said, "When the analysis is finished, local leaders will have roadmaps for strengthening local housing markets. Additionally, they will have a lot of market data that they can share with potential developers. Providing this data to prospective builders, and showing action on the GOPC's recommendations, will give developers confidence that the county and its municipalities are open for business."

The study, to be completed in December, will cover the county housing market as a whole and the county's four major population centers where 43 percent of current residents live: Urbana, Mechanicsburg, St. Paris and North Lewisburg.

"This analysis will include existing market housing conditions, identify obstacles and opportunities for new housing, provide recommendations for improving the diversity of housing stock to help business grow and retain talent, and assess housing needs for seniors and low- and moderate-income residents," Goebel said.

An advisory committee, which will provide guidance and feedback to the GOPC, includes Bailey, Security National Bank President John Brown, Mechanicsburg Mayor Greg Kimball, St. Paris Mayor Brenda Cook, Mechanicsburg Zoning Inspector Dusty Hurst, Urbana Zoning and Compliance Officer Adam Moore, property owner Jamon Sellman, real estate agent Lee Henderson, and Todd Michael, business owner and CEP President. A steering committee, which includes advisory committee members, also has been formed.

See You at the Fair!

When you're at the Champaign County Fair, Aug. 2-9, visit the Champaign County Human Resources Manufacturers Council booth in the Merchants Building.

The booth will include:

- Displays by local manufacturers featuring their products and job opportunities
- Information about the CEP
- The new ChampaignWorks website, where you can apply for local jobs and learn more about what Champaign County has to offer



Ground Broken for New Cobblestone Hotel in Urbana

Construction of the 54-room hotel, at the intersection of U.S. 55 and 68, will be completed in spring 2020. The project, supported by a group of local investors, will enable more visitors to stay overnight in Urbana and support our local economy. From left, are CEP Director Marcia Bailey, Brad Millice of Perpetual Federal Savings Bank, BriMark Development President Jeremy Griesbach, investor Steve Bohl, investor Bryan Thompson, investor Todd Michael (and CEP board president), Champaign County Commissioner Steve Hess (and CEP board member), investor Mike Major, investor Terry Howell, investor Jerry Gecowets, Urbana Mayor Bill Bean (and CEP board member), Cobblestone Hotel President and CEO Brian Wogernese, Urbana University Executive Vice President and CEO Christopher Washington, Pace Equity Managing Director David Oliverio and Urbana City Councilman Pat Thackery (and CEP board member).

Ohio Director of Agriculture Tours Local Farms



Dorothy Pelanda (left), Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, pictured here with Joyce Nelson of Dugan Road Creamery, also visited Freshwater Farms of Ohio and the Champaign Berry Farm during a tour coordinated by the CEP and the Champaign County Agriculture Association. After the tour, Pelanda spoke at the Pretty Prairie Farm of CEP President Todd Michael and his wife, Jill, before a showing of the documentary "Farmers for America."

St. Paris Exploring Options to Fill Grocery Need

St. Paris continues to look for a new local grocery store to replace the village's IGA, which closed this spring.

"It's really a hardship for St. Paris," says Mayor Brenda Cook. Residents have called her with their concerns, which she shares. She said, "I've walked to the store for 30 years to buy groceries. I miss that. Now I have to plan ahead."

The good news, Cook says, is that a new ice cream shop, Glennon's Irish Creamery, which also serves lunch and dinner items, has opened in the dairy bar section of the IGA building.

Cook, with the help of the CEP, has formed an ad hoc committee to find a new grocery provider. The committee has met with the Ohio State University Extension Service to look at various options for small communities like St. Paris.

One idea, she said, is a local market that brings together vendors who sell products such as milk, eggs, meat, and produce – "a continual farmers' market."

To learn more, contact the CEP, 937-653-7200, or info@cepohio.com.

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