



# The INSIDE

Q3 2020

Allen **E**conomic **D**evelopment **G**roup



**Randall Bearings is the first tenant in Shawnee Township industrial park. Over 60 developable acres still available.**

**The Port Authority of Allen County has invested over \$1 million in infrastructure to develop a new industrial park near the intersection of McClain Road and Commerce Parkway.**

**President's Pitch**

## Positive results in Allen County — economically speaking

When the health pandemic hit in March we began to hear talk of a “new normal” that includes the drastic change of office settings, work schedules, and supply change needs. While it is important to adapt to changing times, I look forward to returning to the days of building relationships in person rather than videoconference and walking the floors of our area’s



companies instead of reading emails to learn about industrial needs.

However, at Allen Economic Development Group we are experiencing some great happenings when it comes to “new.”

Two of our existing companies are establishing new homes in our Gateway Industrial Park. Randall Bearings closed on property on McClain Road in early October and has begun

site preparation for its new, 100,000-square-foot facility. Also, PERRY proTECH received a tax abatement and support from JobsOhio to build a new, \$6 million headquarters around the corner off of Commerce Parkway.

Another new 100,000-square-foot facility is being built just west of the Bob Evan’s manufacturing facility. This company, Logoplaste, is new to

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### Lima Manufacturing Makes Top 20 List

The manufacturing sector in Lima employs nearly 46,000 people and pays an average salary of more than \$67,000 a year, according to TownSquare Publications. Though hurt badly in the 2007 recession, Lima recovered, and today is home to P&G, Ford Motor Company, and General Dynamics. Lima also hosts the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center. Lima's manufacturing output per capita was just under \$40,000 in 2018, as reported in Global Trade, an international business magazine.

### Allen County data points

- 61% of our jobs are located in the 45801 and 45804 zip codes.
- Our largest industry is health care, followed by manufacturing and government.
- Our top growing industry is manufacturing.
- In 2019, there were 3,308 higher education graduates. This pipeline has shrunk by 20% over the last five years.

Source: Emsi Q3 2020 Data

# State grant assists local small companies

New program geared to give boost to small businesses in designated distressed census areas

The JobsOhio Inclusion Grant was introduced midyear to provide financial support for qualified projects at businesses in designated distressed communities or businesses owned by underrepresented populations.

The state agency committed \$5 million annually for the program, with each company being eligible for up to \$50,000. Businesses must fit one of JobsOhio target industries and factors reviewed include fixed asset investment, job creation and retention, payroll created and retained, and training investment.

Six Allen County companies have received grants, with details shown in the graph at right. If you have questions about the JOIG, call AEDG at 419-222-7706.



## AEDG wants your company's investment data

Site Selection Magazine is a premier publication in economic development. The magazine annually solicits information from communities about jobs created, square footage added, and capital investment made at their companies.

Receiving recognition from this magazine gets the attention of site selectors and executives making decisions on where to locate their company.

You can assist AEDG by sending us information about projects your company has completed in 2020. Specifically, we are looking for

projects that meet the following criteria: 20 or more new employees, 20,000 square feet or more added at your location and a \$1 million or more investment.



Information may be emailed to [strattond@aedg.org](mailto:strattond@aedg.org).

Great things are happening in Allen County and we are excited about sharing it. In 2019, Allen County registered 10 projects and was ranked sixth among Top 10 Metropolitan areas in the nation. We are in the Tier 3 category, which includes cities with a population less than 200,000.

# Stratton

From page 1

Allen County. It is an international plastics company headquartered in Portugal that was established in 1976. Logoplaste/Lima has a goal to be in production in 2021.

AEDG has a mission to attract new businesses to Lima/Allen County, to assist in the growth of our existing businesses, and to create jobs for our community. In August, we assisted in another “new.” Well, the company isn’t new, but the restaurant being established on 309 East, across from the Allen County Fairgrounds, will be newly built. Good Food, Inc. owned and operated by John Heaphy and his team, is in the process of building another Beer Barrel. This development accomplishes all three of our goals in one project.

We are excited about JobsOhio’s new Inclusion Grant program, which has benefitted some of our smaller businesses. The nearly \$200,000 of support will result in nearly \$1 million in capital investment and job creation and retention at six of our businesses. Details on this program are included in this newsletter.

As we close out this unusual year and we look forward to a new one, we are excited about the possibilities we see on the horizon. A quote by Peter Drucker, a leadership speaker and author states, “Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes; but no plans.” Our AEDG team and board are developing a 3-year Strategic Plan striving for economic development success for our region. We are thinking, planning, and committing ourselves to the future.

We believe as we plan and stay committed we can accomplish much for our region. Join us as we pursue sustainability and “newness” in our community.

# Port authority installs board members

The Port Authority of Allen County recently installed three members to its six-person board of directors.



Hardy



Armstrong

Bob Armstrong, Phil Buell, and Barry Hardy will each serve a four-year term following their reappointment by Allen County Commissioners in July.

Armstrong is the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Lima Memorial Health System. He served on the Port Authority board in the early 2000s and returned in 2016. Buell is President and Chief Operating Officer of Superior Federal Credit Union. He begins his third term on the board, formerly serving as its chairperson.

Hardy is President and Owner of Hardy Financial Group. He also begins his third term on the board and serves as its secretary and fiscal officer.



Buell

The Port Authority of Allen County was formed in 1982 by the Allen County Commissioners. It was reorganized in 2013 and is now administered by the Allen Economic Development Group. A port authority, through powers outlined in the Ohio Revised Code, has the ability to own, lease and buy land, provide financing mechanisms to eligible entities, issue bonds, and other economic development tools. The port owns many acres of land in Allen County ready for commercial and industrial development, including more than 60 acres off McClain Road and land in the Shawnee Industrial Park.

Additional members of the port authority include Russ Ramey, Maria Sanko and Don Klausing.

### AEDG Board Members

- Carol Russell
- Cory Noonan
- David Berger
- Don Klausing
- Eric Pohjala
- Howard Violet
- John Recker
- Keith Horner
- Ronda Lehman
- Perry Wiltsie
- Tim Turnwald
- Tim Windau
- Todd Sutton



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