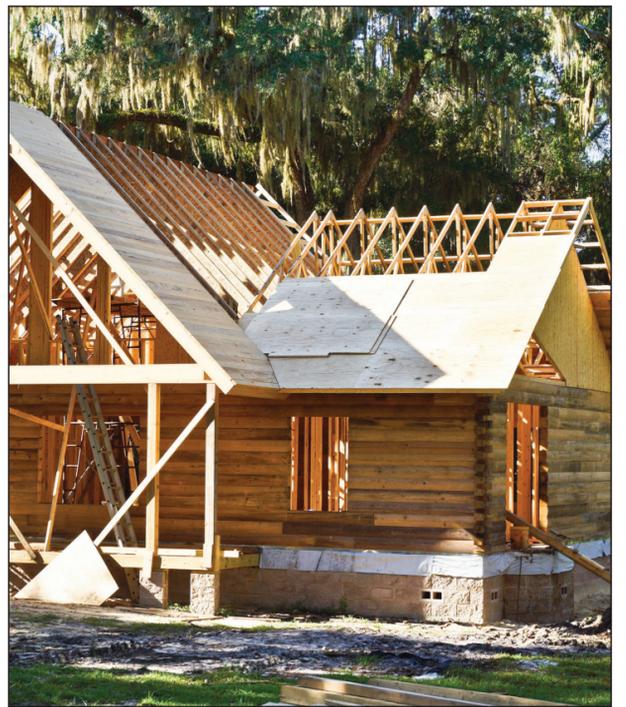


Highland County PROGRESS 2016

A supplement to

The Times-Gazette

Highland County Shopper/Community Guide



County leaders hope to build on momentum

The Times-Gazette

Building on the momentum that began in 2015 makes the outlook for 2016 in Highland County optimistic, county leaders say.

Highland County Board of Commissioners President Shane Wilkin said the county's strong relationships with state and federal leaders like Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Congressman Brad Wenstrup and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman help keep Highland County high on the economic radar screen and poised for future growth.

Wilkin said economic development efforts that paid off with landing Corvac in Greenfield provide a model for the future. The auto-industry supplier is not just beneficial to Greenfield and Highland County, but to the entire region, Wilkin said.

He said Candle-lite's expansion in Leesburg is "another good win for 2015." The expansion announced in November will be a nearly \$12 million investment that will add new production equipment, make leasehold improvements at the facility, and include 50 new full-time jobs at the operation over the next three years.

Wilkin also said commissioners are looking forward to the economic growth and potential jobs that could result from current projects the county is working on, and "projects we are confident we will get a shot at bringing to Highland County."

Last year was "a very successful year," Wilkin said. "We look forward to building on that momentum in 2016."

Highland County Common Pleas Court Judge Rocky Coss said he hopes the court would continue in 2016 to operate in what he considers an effi-



County officials say their strong relationship with state and federal leaders paves the way for success in 2016. Shown at a meeting in Hillsboro are U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, local resident Ken Ludwick, commissioner Shane Wilkin and Congressman Brad Wenstrup.

cient and fair manner. He hopes to see "a sign of progress in the fight against drug addiction," the judge said. "We see individual successes, but the tide still seems to be against us. I just hope we can get to a point where we can see the tide turning."

A key to that, Coss said, are treatment options in the local community.

A lot of progress has been made in understanding addiction and what it takes to help a person beat it, he said, but "there's still a lot of effort that needs to be made." Coss said it will require communities to be committed to support-

ing local programs, adding that treatment locally is the "most successful." The judge said that halfway houses and sober living houses being a part of local communities could make all the difference. "I'm hoping that will happen" in the new year, Coss said.

Highland County Prosecutor Anneka Collins said she agreed with Coss "one thousand percent." And any headway made against addiction, she said, would be "all-encompassing for the county" as it would mean fewer children in foster care and less money paid out by the county to support those astronomical costs. That headway would also assist in the

reduction of other drug-related offenses, she said, like property crime.

"That's what I would like to see us do," she said.

As to her office, she said she is pleased with how it interacts with other offices.

"I would like to keep that up, keep building on that for the benefit of the county and the residents we are lucky enough to serve," she said.

Highland County Sheriff Donnie Barrera said he would like to continue with practices that have proven beneficial.

Barrera said one of those is continuing "to build camaraderie within the ranks of the sheriff's office so that we can

continue to protect and serve the citizens of Highland County" and continue to fight the war on drugs.

He said the office will stay current with the changing trends in an effort to "keep officers safe, well trained, and well equipped." The sheriff said he would also continue to "conservatively manage the budget" which he said benefits everyone.

Barrera said his office in the new year would also continue "to be active through community involvement while building strong relationships with communities, community leaders, and other law enforcement agencies."

The county remains well served in regard to health care facilities and providers, with Highland District Hospital and Adena providing access to specialists and the most modern equipment, and services such as EAST Ambulance provide quality transportation and state-of-the-art emergency care.

In addition to the local school districts, Southern State Community College continues to provide quality higher-education needs and a growing number of partnerships with neighboring universities so students can achieve bachelor's degrees while taking most courses at the SSCC campuses.

Infrastructure, hotel eyed in Hillsboro in 2016

School wants to continue test score improvement

By Gary Abernathy
gubernathy@civitasmedia.com

If early indications are a sign of things to come, the city of Hillsboro's economic outlook for 2016 should be healthy.

Mayor Drew Hastings said that aside from the city's ongoing infrastruc-

ture plans, including more paving and repairs, he is "really trying to get some momentum going for our hotel project, as well as an organized plan for uptown residential living."

Hastings said that almost every employer that has been questioned by the city laments the lack of a place for business guests or corporate officials to stay

locally. Most such guests are sent to out-of-town hotels, said the mayor.

A nice new hotel would also help the city increase event opportunities, said the mayor.

City tax receipts are up so far to the tune of nearly \$250,000, Hillsboro City Council learned in January.

Safety and Service Director Todd Wilkin told council that city income tax collections are up by 7.42 percent over a year ago. He said the collections are an indication of a healthier city economy.



Smith



Hillsboro Mayor Drew Hastings addresses a meeting of Hillsboro City Council. City leaders say 2016 should be a positive year for development and growth, building on successes experienced in 2015.

"As we reflect upon our accomplishments in 2015, we realize we need to jump into our 2016

budget aggressively," said Wilkin.

Wilkin outlined several projects scheduled this year, including:

- Harry Sauner Road widening, \$946,439.
- South East Street reconstruction, \$353,841.
- South High Street curb and gutter project, \$63,750.
- Dog park and pavilion at Liberty Park, \$102,248.

Hastings met recently with Ohio Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger

on the city's Capital Budget request. The mayor said that while the city was unlikely to receive the full \$650,000 it had requested, it looked "promising" that a considerable amount of funding would be forthcoming.

A pedestrian pathway the city hopes to build "improves pedestrian safety and access on U.S. 62 (North High Street) from Courthouse Square

See HOTEL | 3



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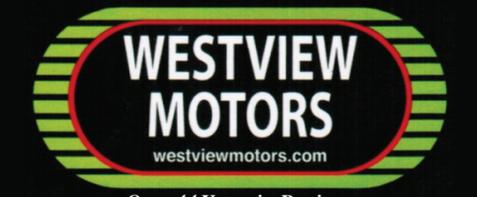


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A lot to look forward to in Greenfield

By Angela Shepherd
ashepherd@civitasmedia.com

With new jobs on the horizon, the completion of a multi-million dollar railroad improvement project, and the continual progress of education, Greenfield has a lot to look forward to in 2016.

Greenfield City Manager Ron Coffey said he is looking forward to the opening, and eventual expansion, of Corvac Composites, an auto-industry supplier that in recent months has completed the purchase of the former RR Donnelly building that has sat vacant since that company pulled up its stakes more than two years ago.

A recent job fair saw about 460 applicants show for jobs with the company. Corvac is slated to begin production early this year.

Over the course of three years, Corvac is said to bring in 175-200 jobs over to the area as it ramps up production.

Also anticipated is the completion of the multi-million dollar railroad rehabilitation project that was years in the making, and finally began last summer.

Coffey said that the project is about 90 percent complete.

The possibility of a transloading facility off the railroad on S. Washington St. is also something that Coffey said he would like to see happen.

It is something that Corvac has expressed interest in, and has been discussed in Greenfield Village Council meetings.

The city manager said he would like to see "a continued investment in Greenfield" as he said last year saw some growth and new businesses are anticipated in the coming year.

The village also plans



A focus of technology across the Greenfield Exempted Village School District has included the addition of technology classes at McClain High School, pictured.

Times-Gazette file photo

to plant trees in the downtown area this year.

Coffey said the continued activities of community organizations throughout the year are also looked forward to.

"There are a lot of cool things that happen here," Coffey said of the annual events put on by the community groups.

Greenfield Exempted Village Schools Superintendent Joe Wills laid out the focus for the grade levels for the coming year.

In the three elementary schools, he said, there is a continued focus on reading skills, which have shown increased improvement over the last couple years. And he said teachers are working to make "real-life connections" as a focus on the reading with the students.

In the middle school, this year the implementation of a mentoring program is hoped for, Wills said. The program, which is anticipated to be funded through a grant, will connect student with leaders in the community as mentors.

In the high school more course offerings are anticipated, Wills said, which will include AP courses, an addition that was decided after a recent parent survey, he said.

And as Wills recently told the Greenfield Rotary Club, there is a continued focus on technology across the district with the addition of new computers, labs, and devices as well as continued professional development with teachers on incorporating more technology in the classroom. The high school has also this school year seen the

addition of technology classes.

Plans for the buildings and grounds are also in the works with lighting at the football field, a safety plan for all buildings that would include visual diagrams accessible to first responders, and continued restoration of the artwork throughout McClain High School.

"I think we are continuing to move in the right direction," Wills said. "Our staff and students continue to work on common goals and we are getting good support from the community and the board of education."

Reach Angela Shepherd at 937-393-3456, ext. 1681, or on Twitter @wordyshepherd.



Courtesy photo

Corvac Composites in Greenfield is slated to begin production this year.

Hotel

From page 2

to the campus of Southern State Community College, a distance of 1.5 miles," Hastings writes in the capital budget request. The funding will pay for "a minimum of 4,675 (feet) of new sidewalk segments and project engineering."

The capital request also asks for \$100,000 for sidewalk repair "along numerous state and federal highways that converge in Hillsboro."

"Ideally, the city seeks added authorization to use the state's investment as a foundational contribution to a revolving loan fund for ongoing sidewalk repair projects along state and federal highways," writes Hastings.

The request also seeks \$175,000 for "City Center Lighting," which "completes work on a 17-year-old plan to provide pedestrian street lighting along U.S. Routes 50 and 62 in downtown Hillsboro." The project "extends street lighting to the city's only supermarket located in the central business district and to a proposed site for a hotel now in the development stages..."

The mayor writes that the city "expects to significantly match the state investment made in this Capital Budget request, as it did with the recently completed pedestrian bridge project, and anticipates that all projects will be finished no later than

the summer of 2017."

Hillsboro City Council recently approved a 2016 city budget that anticipates nearly \$5 million in General Fund spending and \$13.4 million in grand total appropriations.

Planned expenditures include nearly \$1.5 million for the police department, \$44,000 for building inspections, \$826,000 in street funds, \$140,000 in recreation funds, and \$154,000 in the Revolving Loan Fund, which the city has been using more frequently to help business growth in the city.

Hastings said recently that more funds have been allocated for the facade improvement program, which assists uptown businesses in upgrading their storefronts.

The Hillsboro Uptown Business Association (HUBA) and its members have another full slate of events and activities to promote the uptown region and in the coming year, HUBA President Joe Mahan said.

Upcoming HUBA events include a Community Fundraiser on Feb. 12 at Bob Evans Restaurant, the season's first Friday on April 1 featuring a Chocolate Walk, and the May 6 First Friday featuring an artisan fair and cruise-in.

At Hillsboro City Schools, there are a number of ongoing initiatives that are priorities in 2016, according to Supt. Jim Smith.

"Number one on the list is the continued improvement of student test scores," said Smith.

"With the creation of a curriculum department two years ago and our ongoing coaching program for teachers, we have seen significant growth of test scores especially in the elementary."

Smith said, "We need to sustain and add to this growth. To do this we will need to continue to focus on improved teaching skills as well as holding students accountable in the classroom. Continued progress will help Hillsboro City Schools become one of the top school districts in the region."

Smith said the second priority "is completion of phase one of our facilities project that began with the construction of the soccer/track stadium two years ago. Phase one consists of a new restroom/concessions building at the stadium and a new weight room/wrestling facility behind the high school/middle school where the outdoor basketball courts are now located." Smith said the district hopes to have both finished by October.

"Finally, we want to continue progress in improving communications with our public," said Smith. "This includes effective use of our new digital sign as well as use of Facebook, Twitter and our web site. It is vital that parents and students get quick answers when they have questions. We view parents as our partners in the education of their children. Effective communication helps make that possible."

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Mowrystown wants to build on stability

'Exciting time' at Bright Local School District

By Jeff Gilliland
jgilliland@civitasmedia.com

While Mowrystown Mayor Frank Terwilliger says the village hopes to continue enjoying the stability it has had in recent years, the Bright Local School District is knocking down all kinds of doors to give its students a better learning environment.

Terwilliger said that while the village continues to try to attract new business, there are no projects in the works at this time. He said he might have a better grasp on some things the village council wants to pursue after it meets for the first time this year.

"We've been on a pretty even keel. We've been operating in the black for years, so we're doing pretty good," Terwilliger said.

Entering his 18th year as mayor, Terwilliger said

the village holds a car show each August and toward the end of each school year Whiteoak High School students clean up Diehl Park in the village.

The mayor said the police department will continue to operate with one part-time employee and the rest of the staff as volunteers, most of them trying to keep their certification current.

Village council meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the community building.

At the Bright Local Schools it's an exciting time, according to new Supt. Ted Downing.

In an effort to improve security, the school district recently installed 45 new cameras at Bright Elementary and another 45 cameras at Whiteoak High School. Keyless entry systems are also planned to be installed at both facilities.

Downing said that the school plans to start both girls and boys soc-



The front of Whiteoak Junior/Senior High School in Mowrystown is pictured.

cer teams next fall and that it will be posting openings for two coaching positions in the near future.

He said the district plans to build a soccer field at the elementary school in Sugar Tree Ridge and if it's not ready in time for next season, Southern State Community College has agreed to let Whiteoak hosts its home games at the college's Hillsboro campus.

In the next couple of weeks the high school

has plans to install Qomo Boards that are similar to Smart Boards in all high school classrooms.

Bright Local plans to shorten the school day next year, but will add a class period, which will provide a chance to offer more elective classes to students. The high school will dismiss at 2 p.m. next year and the elementary at 3:15 p.m., a half-hour earlier than this year.

"By doing that, any kid who in the past could not get home because of



This photograph shows view of Main Street in Mowrystown heading west.

clubs, or has no Internet service or needs extra help, can stay at school until 2:50 p.m. and then catch a bus to the elementary school and ride home from there," Downing said. "We'll be able to get elementary kids home a half hour earlier, so maybe that will help the parents out some."

The district plans to implement one-to-one iPad initiatives for the 2016-17 school year in grades 7-12 with several options available.

"I think the kids here

are excited. They're excited about soccer, technology, more classes, and feeling more safe," Downing said. "And that's not me. It's got to be a community thing. Chuck Wait has been a tremendous help with the pep club and we need to get more people involved like that to help us move forward. We just have to let the public know we have good things going on."

Reach Jeff Gilliland at 937-402-2522 or on Twitter @13gillilandj.

New mayor wants to promote Lynchburg

Lynchburg-Clay focuses on technology upgrades

By Jeff Gilliland
jgilliland@civitasmedia.com

After two weeks as Lynchburg mayor, Terry Burden said he's still in the assessment process, but he plans to make 2016 a better year for the village.

A more than \$4 million water system project has been put on hold as

Burden and other village officials look for alternative funding, but in the meantime he has plans to perk the town up a little.

"I want to promote the town a little more," Burden said recently. "One thing I want to do is get paint for all the old buildings downtown and give things a little facelift."

Lowe's in Hillsboro has already agreed to donate 30 gallons of paint, Burden said, Olympic Paint wants to help, and Lowe's in Wilmington also wants to send some paint

Lynchburg's way.

"We just have to get the building owners to participate," Burden said. "If they'll let us get the paint then they can choose the historic colors."

The mayor said he wants to repair village sidewalks and possibly replace some of the street lighting with an old-fashioned style. He also said there's a movement to build a veterans memorial in the downtown square. He said some money has already been donated for the project

and he wants to inject some new life into it.

Burden also wants to bring back the Lynchburg Covered Bridge Festival, at least for one day, possibly pairing it with annual tractor pulls in the village. He also wants to start a community Halloween celebration with hayrides, costume contests, games and more.

"I pretty much want to promote the town in a bigger way," he said.

Burden has enlisted the help of former mayor and Highland County Commissioner Jeremy Shaffer to find more funds for the water project that was recently put on hold by village council.

The project originally called for the village to borrow approximately \$3.5 million and use \$800,000 in grant funds. But Burden said he is not sure if the grant funding had been secured.

"To borrow that much money just didn't make sense to me," Burden said. "The lines are very bad, rusted out, and about 100 years old. When there's a water main break we dig down, then have to dig back a good way and find a good section to hook on to. We've been patching for several years."

"We're just trying to find other ways (to fund the project). We have our work cut out for us, but we're going to do it."

Council also recently hired former Highland County sheriff and Lynchburg native Richard Warner as the new police chief.

At the Lynchburg-Clay schools, Supt. Brett Justice said the school is entering the third-year phase of a technology



Lynchburg firefighters help village kids cool off on a hot summer day.



New Lynchburg Mayor Terry Burden (center) is pictured with council members during a special meeting in early January.

upgrade for grades K-12. He said the project has included purchasing computers, updating existing systems and making technology more accessible to students.

Justice said Lynchburg-Clay's standardized test scores have been among the top in the area in recent years and that a year ago Lynchburg-Clay Elementary was one of six schools statewide to be named a National Blue Ribbon winner based on test scores for disadvantaged students.

The school recently completed its outdoor athletic complex, topping it off with concrete and blacktop work, plus adding an outbuilding.

Now Justice said the

district wants to focus on its buildings. He said the new buildings are 14 to 15 years old now and could use some attention, and the district has plans to redo the gym floor this summer. He said there are also plans to make some cosmetic improvements to the exterior of the middle school.

"We've been blessed with three really good administrators and a good staff in each building," Justice said. "We believe we're ahead of the curve with where we're at with our technology and hopefully that will push the students ahead a little faster."

Reach Jeff Gilliland at 937-402-2522 or on Twitter @13gillilandj.

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HDH service called top performer

Submitted by HDH

Highland District Hospital's Home Health Services has been recognized as among the Home Care Elite, a list of the top-performing home care providers in the United States. This annual review identifies the top 25% of agencies ranked by an analysis of performing measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement and finan-

cial performance. Highland District Hospital's Home Health Services ranked in the top 5% nationally, and is recognized as being in the top 500 of home health agencies nationwide.

Jim Baer, CEO of Highland District Hospital, credits talented, caring and dedicated employees and a team effort toward service excellence with the hospital's ability to

rank as one of the Home Care Elite. He said, "I am so proud of the staff and their accomplishments as we continue to strive for excellence in patient care."

"Caring for individuals in their homes truly is a privilege for us," said Hazel Smith, RN and Manager of Highland District Hospital's Home Health. "Home care

See HDH | 7

In Leesburg, expansion is the key

'Great outlook' for Fairfield Local Schools

By **Angela Shepherd**
 ashepherd@civitasmedia.com

Things for 2016 are looking good for Leesburg with construction at the school slated for completion, more jobs coming in through Candle-lite, and the county looking to get the industrial park certified.

Leesburg Mayor Freddie Snyder said Candle-lite was the village's "big thing," but that another local company also has plans to expand in 2016, and the village's finances are "in good shape."

"Leesburg is looking at a good year," Snyder said.

One of the reasons for the mayor's outlook is Candle-lite's expansion, something Highland County Board of Commissioners President Shane Wilkin previously described as a "good win for 2015," adding that he looks forward to how that comes together in the new year.

The expansion announced in November will be a nearly \$12 million investment that will add new production equipment, make leasehold improvements at the facility, and include 50 new full-time jobs at the operation over the next three years.

Wilkin said at a previous meeting of commissioners that while there

had been talk by the company to relocate to another state, the work of the village of Leesburg, DP&L, JobsOhio, and SOACDF (Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Foundation), helped ensure the manufacturer staying put.

"Everyone understood the importance" of keeping Candle-lite in the area, and worked together to make that happen, Wilkin said.

He said commissioners are also "actively working" on getting the Leesburg Industrial Park certified.

Once the site is certified, Wilkin said, the industrial park would be listed by the state of Ohio as a certified building site, and would be more visible to those looking for a place for their business.

He said the county commissioners "are excited about the possibility" of the industrial park's being certified for industry in the state. "We are very close to being able to get it done," Wilkin said.

Bill Garrett, superintendent of Fairfield Local Schools, said the district has a "great, bright outlook" for the new year.

"A big part of that," he said, is the ongoing construction of eight additional classrooms and a multipurpose room — which will serve as a cafeteria, physical education area, and host after school activities — and it's all anticipated to be completed by the time

students return in the fall.

Those additional classrooms, he said, would allow the district to increase enrollment. He said the district has had to turn away students because there has not been enough space.

Also under construction is a track/soccer complex, something Garrett said they are "anxious" to get open and use.

While Fairfield has a track program, it does not have an existing track facility, and students would typically practice in the parking lot, Garrett said. But with the soon-to-be open track and soccer complex, he said the track program is already growing.

As for state school report cards due out soon, Garrett said the preliminary results look "really good."

Garrett said last year was a "great year" and the administration and staff are looking forward to another one.

He said the district is fortunate because the "staff is really good about being proactive" on seeing where needs are with students and working to meet those needs.

And financially, the superintendent said the district is "doing good." He said the board and administration really try to be "good stewards" of the district's money.

"We think everything is looking good for us," Garrett said.



Courtesy photo

An aerial photo of the early construction of new classrooms and an multi-purpose room at Fairfield Local Schools is pictured. It is anticipated the construction will be complete by the fall.



Times-Gazette file photo

Leesburg's Candle-lite is to invest nearly \$12 million in local expansion and create about 50 new jobs in the next three years.



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New programs started at Southern State

Submitted by SSCC

In 2015, Southern State Community College celebrated 40 years of quality education, 40 years of community involvement, 40 years of making connections that change lives.

Throughout the years, we have gone through many changes, but one thing will never change—our commitment to our students. That brings us to our greatest accomplishment of 2015. In May, we proudly conferred degrees and certificates to hundreds of well-deserving graduates. Here's looking forward to the year ahead and watching hundreds more check something off their bucket lists—getting a college degree.

Speaking of degrees, check out the list of new programs we began offering in 2015. And keep your eye on us, as we continually align our curriculum with regional job trends. Learn more about your community college at www.sccc.edu.

Accelerated AA/AS
With Southern State's new accelerated associate degree programs, students can spend just two nights per week in class and finish in 18 months. To learn more, contact SSCC Advisor Brenda Landis at 800-628-7722, ext. 5615, or blandis.edu.

The time toward a college degree can be shortened by pursuing SSCC's Accelerated Associate of Arts (AA) or Accelerated Associate of Science (AS). The AA and AS are both considered transfer degrees, providing the first two years of

study toward a bachelor's degree.

The new program has a fall semester start with a two-day Accelerated Seminar, then follows with a slate of five-week-long courses, including Introduction to the Arts, English Composition I and II, Fundamentals of Effective Speech, and American Literature to 1865. Benefits of the new Accelerated Associate Degree program include:

- o A Degree in 18 Months – A traditional associate degree program typically takes two years to complete; the accelerated option gets students to degree completion sooner.

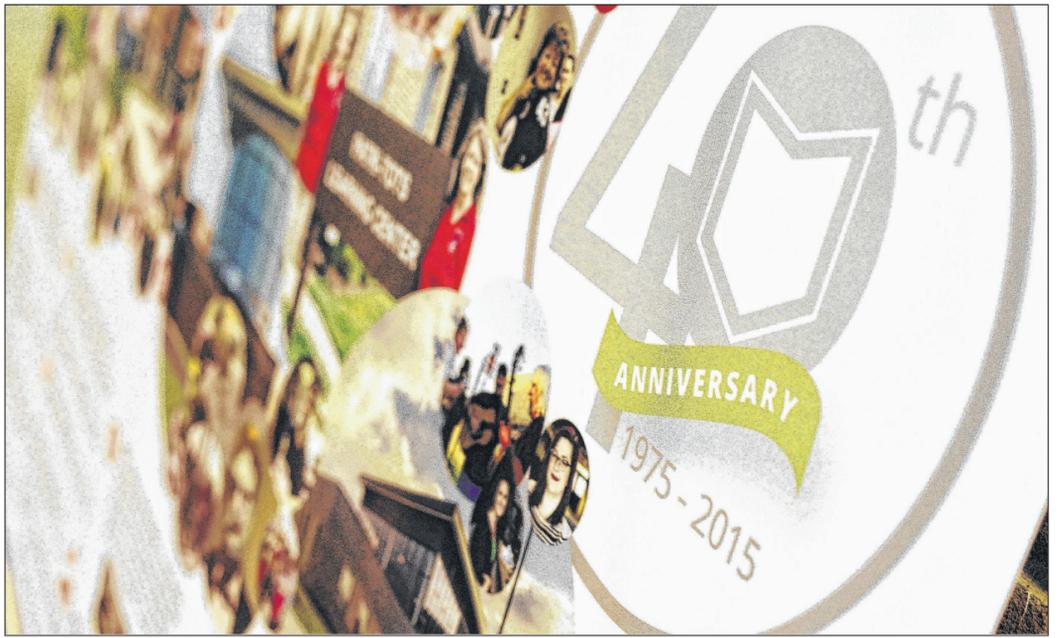
- o Two Evenings Per Week – Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings, allowing students to work around family needs and full-time job obligations.

- o Hybrid Classes – Half of the course time will be spent in a classroom setting, while the other half will be completed online through readings, activities, and discussions.

- o Learning Community – Participants move through the accelerated program with the same group, or cohort, of students which builds a supportive learning community.

- o Cost Savings – Less time in school means more savings for students.

Engineering Co-Op
In collaboration with leading employers—currently GE Aviation's Peebles Test Operation, Candle-Lite Company, Airborne Maintenance and Engineering Services, and C-Mold—South-



ern State is now offering a degree in Electrical/Electronics Technology with an opportunity to build industry-relevant experience through co-op programming.

To learn more about the new Engineering Co-op Track at Southern State, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/co-op&internship/index.shtml or contact SSCC Coordinator of Academic Partnerships Amy McClellan at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 2785, or amcclellan@sccc.edu.

Co-op, or Cooperative Education, is a structured method of alternating classroom-based education with practical work experience. Students selected by the industry partner to participate in the program can expect:

- o Alternate semesters with one semester in the classroom, one semester working with industry partner, rotating throughout the 2.5-year program;

- o During classroom semester, attend courses typically offered in late afternoon and evenings;

- o During co-op semester, work full time earning competitive entry-level wages; and

- o Graduate with both an associate degree and relevant experience in highly competitive industries.

Accelerated Real Estate Program

A new accelerated program in Real Estate was initiated Fall Semester at Southern State. The eight-weekend program includes four classes—Principles of Real Estate, Real Estate Law, Real Estate Finance, and Real Estate Appraisal—and is typically offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. After successful completion of the coursework, students can qualify to sit for the Ohio Real Estate Salesperson exam and earn a license to become a Real Estate Agent.

Southern State also offers an associate's degree in Real Estate for those who wish to advance their careers and become an appraiser, broker, developer, inspector, or an investment consul-

tant.

To learn more, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/associate/real-estate.shtml#accelerated or call Dr. Gayle Mackay at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 2798, or gmackay@sccc.edu.

AAS in Biotechnology & Laboratory Science

Southern State's new associate of applied science degree in Biotechnology & Laboratory Science prepares graduates to work as entry-level laboratory technicians or continue their studies in biotechnology, biology, molecular biology, or cell biology at a four-year college.

Biotechnology is a growing industry that implements the use of living systems and organisms to develop products. By using principles of biology and technology in the lab to solve scientific issues, this branch of science is used to advance technology in the agriculture, food production, forensics, pharmaceutical, and medical fields.

To learn more, visit www.sccc.edu/academics/associate/biotechnology.shtml or call Dr. David Garippa at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 5635, or dgarippa@sccc.edu.

AAB in Logistics Man-

agement

Southern State's new associate of applied business degree in Logistics Management prepares graduates to work as freight rate specialists; freight forwarders; shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks; production, planning, and expediting clerks; logistics analysts; cargo and freight agents; warehouse managers; customer order managers; storage and distribution managers; outbound operations managers; transportation managers; inventory planning and control managers; and supply chain managers.

Logistics is the movement and storage of goods from the beginning to the end of the supply chain. It is the largest piece of Supply Chain Management, which is the work connected to the strategic planning, coordination, and management of the design, manufacture, and delivery of a final product.

To learn more, visit <http://www.sccc.edu/academics/associate/logistics-management.shtml> or call John Joy at 1-800-628-7722, ext. 4510, or jjoy@sccc.edu.

Article submitted by Southern State Community College.

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Weastec encourages community involvement

Submitted by Weastec

Our Associates are committed to making Weastec a great place to work. Both inside and outside of work, Weastec associates are striving to make a difference!

Associates are active in our community doing volunteer work for 4-H, coaching youth sports teams, leading Boys Scouts, volunteering at church, participating with the Antique Machinery Club, South Western Ohio Farm Toy Collectors Club, Relay for Life, Wheeling Sportsman and many more activities.

Last year we had three different teams participate in the Amazing Race which raises money for local charities in Highland County. We have associates who serve on Hillsboro City Schools Business Advisory Committee, Highland County Chamber of Commerce, Turning Point Applied Learning Service Board, SATH, and Highland County Society for Children & Adults and Hillsboro Rotary. Twice a year associates donate blood to the Hoxworth Blood Center.

Not only are associates actively working in

our community but you will see that same drive and dedication at work helping fellow associates. A couple times a month associates will prepare homemade entrees, soups, salads and desserts to help raise money for associates who are in need. They hold card showers to brighten people's lives, buy Christmas gifts for under privilege children, and collect Toys for Tots. Associates donated clothing and household goods for an associate who lost their home to fire. This year, we are organizing a Weastec Relay for Life Team to honor our cancer survivors, remember our associates who lost their fight, and to help raise money to find a cure.

Weastec offers associates the chance to participate in associates involvement programs and wellness activities. "Weastec University" is a voluntary associate involvement program. Associates can serve on various committees and/or participate in making company improvements. Associates organize Santa and Easter Bunny visits for our associates' children and grandchildren. They put together summer fun

activities including visits to the zoo, zip lining, Ohio State fair or a visit to an amusement park.

Our associate improvement suggestions usually come from two different areas: Kaizens (practice of continuous improvement) or Quality Circles. A Kaizen is usually an individual effort to identify and solve a specific problem. Associates look to make improvements to quality, efficiency, delivery, safety and in our environment. A Quality Circle team is a group of between 3 and 10 associates that identify and solve a specific problem. They work on their projects for 6 months. Associates present their project to management either in the spring or fall. In-house teams compete to earn the chance to attend the Honda CAN Conference.

Weastec encourages associate involvement and seeks to contribute to the communities in which we live and work. We appreciate our associates' dedication and the use of their special talents to help serve others.

Article submitted by Weastec.

HDH

From page 4

professionals and modern medicine make it possible for people to stay in their homes.”

Highland District Hospital's Professional Services Corp. opened a new medical facility in Lynchburg in October. The ground breaking ceremony for the Lynchburg Medical Center was held in June, 2015 and the grand opening of the 1,200 square foot facility was held in October. Jo Beth Lee, MD joined the practice at the time

of the opening. She is board certified in Family Practice and is accepting patients of all ages. “I am excited to return to my hometown of Hillsboro with my husband and two children and to serve the healthcare needs of the community,” said Dr. Lee. To schedule an appointment with Dr. Lee, call (937) 364-2346.

Highland District Hospital earned the 2015 Path to Excellence Award from the National Research Corporation. The hospital was selected for our achievement with in categories that patients identified as being the

most important to the quality of their care. The award is only bestowed upon those organizations that are ranked by patients as being a top performer. “I am proud of the staff and the great work and service they provide to the community. This recognition exemplifies the importance our staff places on excellence,” stated Jim Baer, CEO of Highland District Hospital.

Highland District Hospital's Imaging Center obtained a perfect Medical Standards Quality Act (MQSA) annual inspection score. Obtaining

perfection year after year in a mammography facility on an annual MQSA inspection is no easy task. It requires good communication, excellent documentation and much hard work and dedication by an entire breast imaging team. The Center features the latest in digital breast imaging technology, which was purchased by the Highland District Hospital Foundation. To schedule an appointment please call (937) 393-MAMMO (6266).

In 2015, Highland District Hospital added 3D/4D Ultrasound to the Radiology Depart-



Highland District Hospital's Home Health Services has been recognized as among the Home Care Elite, a list of the top-performing home care providers in the United States.

ment. This new technology allows you to view your unborn baby in live motion. From a yawn to a stretch, or the beating of the baby's heart. Imagine being able to actually see your baby's face for the first time! The session is \$99 and includes a disk

for you to take home to share. We offer gift certificates as well – the perfect gift for an expectant mom. To schedule an appointment, call (937) 393-6126.

Article submitted by Highland District Hospital.

Adena's vision came into focus in 2015

Submitted by Adena

In 2015, Adena Health System marked its 120th anniversary of caring for people throughout south central and southern Ohio. Adena was founded in 1895 to fill the need for community-based healthcare, and in 2015 Adena renewed the commitment of its founders by adopting a new vision statement: “To be instrumental in the creation of healthy and thriving communities.”

Part of our community-focused vision includes a key strategy called population health. This strategy involves caring for the patient beyond the office appointment or hospital stay. Population health includes a variety of functions, such as nurse navigators coordinating care for the patient between all of his/her providers, offering education about living with conditions like diabetes, and making sure a patient's follow-up appointments are made and kept.

“Adena's key clinical strategy toward population health, and our renewed community focus on issues that impact the health of everyone who lives here, is evident in many of the System's 2015 achievements,” said Adena President and CEO Mark Shuter. “When looking back on the year as a whole, our caregivers have worked hard to bring healthcare, and the health-related issues that make a difference in all of our lives, outside the four walls of a clinic or the hospital. This is something that we plan to continue well into 2016.”

Last year, Adena's community-focused care and outreach included an educational program via webinar in January that provided parents with information about prescription drug abuse. The program, created by Adena pharmacist Richard Ash through a grant

from the Cardinal Health Foundation, helped parents identify prescription drug abuse among their children, as well as how to educate their kids about the dangers of drug abuse. Also in January, Adena Regional Medical Center hosted a bone marrow tissue drive, called Be The Match, that added nearly 100 potential donors to the national Bone Marrow Registry. The drive was coordinated by the family of Chillicothe-native Dr. Tracy Jalbuena, the eldest daughter of retired Adena urologist Dr. Jun Jalbuena and his wife Kathy. Tracy is battling multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow, and is still in need of a bone marrow transplant.

In February, Adena received word that its Diabetes Education Program received accreditation by the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). Diabetes is serious health issue for many in our region, and education has become a primary initiative for caregivers at Adena.

“Diabetes education is an important element in the care of all people with this disease,” said Adena Vice President of Clinical Integration Bambi Huffman. “We have worked to create a quality program that is making an impact on the lives of our patients. Achieving this accreditation is just one way Adena can demonstrate its dedication to providing quality diabetes care for our patients in the communities we serve.”

Later in the year, Adena held its first-ever Diabetes Expo at the PACCAR Medical Education Center. The event drew more than 200 people and provided information, shopping and cooking demonstrations and more. The information provided was so needed and well received that the Diabetes

Expo will become a regular event, with the next expo planned to be held in Waverly in the coming months.

Employing more than 3,000 caregivers, Adena is Ross County's largest employer. The Health System generates millions for the region's tax base, and its employees purchase goods and services from vendors throughout the area. In March, Adena was recognized by Becker's Healthcare as one of the Top 150 Great Places to Work in Healthcare. Adena's selection to the list was based on benefit offerings, wellness programs, commitment to diversity and inclusion, professional development opportunities and an environment that promotes employee satisfaction and a work-life balance.

“It is an honor to be nationally recognized for our employee programs,” said Shuter. “Here at Adena, we firmly believe that in order to provide our patients with the best quality care possible, we must have a satisfied and engaged team of caregivers. By offering the benefits, support and tools needed to help them perform their duties, along with the opportunities for career growth and a work-life balance, we feel that Adena is well-positioned to achieve this goal.”

One month later, Adena was named a Gallup Great Workplace for the second consecutive year. The Gallup organization recognizes its winners as having “the most engaged workforces in the world.” According to Gallup, the recipients average nine engaged employees for every one actively disengaged employee, which is more than five times the rate in the U.S. and more than 16 times the rate for workforces globally.

Making healthcare as convenient as possible is part of creating a health system that always put the needs of our patients

first. When patients expressed a desire for rehabilitative care that was closer to home, Adena looked at how to make that possible. The result was the May opening of the Adena Wellness Center West, located inside the former Cinema 6 building on Western Avenue. Now home to part of Adena's Rehabilitation Services Department and Adena Home Care and Hospice, the facility is meeting the needs of the more than 60 percent of patients living near the western edge of Ross County.

Recognizing the important role the community has in Adena's success, the Health System celebrated National Hospital Week 2015 by giving back. In May, Adena President and CEO Mark Shuter spent much of Hospital Week delivering gift cards valued at \$11,805 to area schools and community organizations. The donations were collected by a number of departments within the Health System and distributed throughout the area as way to thank the community for its support of Adena.

As a teaching hospital, Adena's education focus is reinforced in the annual support of the Adena Health Foundation Scholarship Awards. In 2015, \$85,400 in scholarships was awarded to 62 students pursuing careers in healthcare. Since 2002,

the Adena Health Foundation has awarded more than half a million dollars to students living in Adena's 12-county service area.

“The Adena Health Foundation scholarships are made possible thanks to generous donors who share Adena's vision to do our best to nurture the talent of future caregivers,” said Adena Health Foundation Executive Director Ralph Metzger.

Perhaps Adena's most visible community initiative was the renovation and opening of downtown Chillicothe's historic Carlisle Building. After being vacant for more than 11 years, and following 16 months of construction, Adena marked the official opening on Oct. 19. “While Adena holds the lease and is the caretaker of the Carlisle Building, this historic structure belongs to Chillicothe,” said Adena President and CEO Mark Shuter. “With The Chesler Group, and many community and state partners, we have been able to give the building new life, and it is now serving as a catalyst for new investment in our downtown. As a community, we have a lot to celebrate.”

The 32,000-square-foot Carlisle Building, which met the needs of historic preservationists to save the 125-year-old structure, has brought new life to the city's main downtown intersection

and achieved the vision of Adena's leaders to utilize the building and to provide safe housing for medical students and some physician residents. The building now includes 32 student apartments, a meeting space and nearly 7,000 square feet of first-floor office space for the Adena Health Foundation and other community-facing personnel.

To wrap up the year, Adena's caregivers purchased coats, hats and gloves for nearly 1,200 children in need in the region at Adena's annual Coats for Kids drive. This winter, each child, including 120 students at Chillicothe's Tiffin Elementary School, received a brand new coat to keep them warm. Since it began four years ago, Adena's caregivers have provided more than 5,000 coats to children in our community through its Coats for Kids program, which is led by a team of nurses and other caregivers.

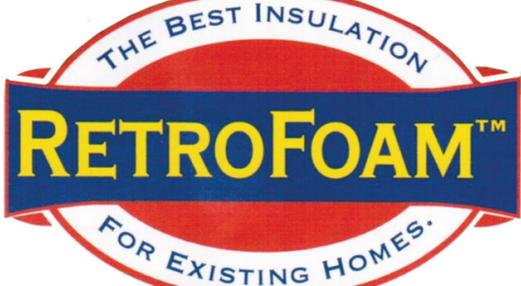
Adena continues to grow to serve the needs of southern Ohio. In December, a new family medicine office was opened in Wellston to serve the residents in Jackson and Vinton Counties. In April 2016, Adena will be opening a health center in Hillsboro to further extend care in Highland County.

Article submitted by Adena.

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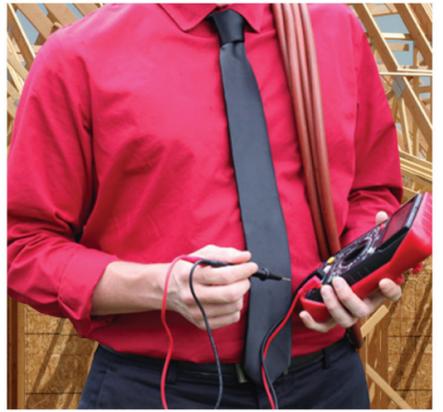
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4th Best Small Hospital in Ohio



Highland District Hospital was recognized as the 4th Best Small Rural Hospital in the state of Ohio. The ranking compares Highland District Hospital to other small rural hospitals in the 25 acute care bed category. Areas measured in the ranking include quality, service, and financial stability. The hospital rankings were produced by iVantage HealthStrong™, a national healthcare consulting firm. iVantage annually ranks hospitals based on 56 performance metrics.

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