

# FAIRFIELD ADVANTAGE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Wage &amp; Benefit Results</i>	2
<i>Project SEARCH</i>	2
<i>Chamber Events</i>	3
<i>Community Events</i>	3

**December 4-5**  
**Christmas Walk**  
**Lancaster Campground**  
**5-8pm**



**December 12**  
**Candlelight Tour**  
**Lancaster**  
**6pm**



Shane Farnsworth

## COME RIDE WITH LPTS

In 2008, Lancaster Public Transit System (LPTS) provided over 45,000 rides to members of the Fairfield County Community. In 2009, with an economic downturn and a push on the green environment, LPTS has continued to see an increase in rider usage. Trips to the doctor, grocery store, retail, work, sports, and school, are destinations for riders of all ages.

Currently, LPTS provides demand response, curb-to-curb, advance or same day registration, and shared ride transportation service.



Many parents are using LPTS as an alternate method of transportation to alleviate some of the stress of getting children to/from school, to after school activities, and sports. There has been an increase in the number of individuals leaving their cars at home and taking public transit to get to work.

LPTS is working to gain rider awareness in the community as well as trying to give back to the community. This year it participated in "Dump the Pump Day", Fairfield County Fair Shuttles,

free rides for Veteran's on Veteran's Day, "Stuff the Bus" food drive through the month of November and will be hosting a "Holiday Lights Tour" in December.

If you have not been able to participate in any of these activities or haven't tried taking public transit, pick a Saturday to take the family to dinner on the Lancaster Public Transit System. It can be fun, easy and an affordable method of transportation. Plan your trips and call ahead to save on the cost. Fares within the city (when you call a day ahead) are \$2.00 for general public (one-way), \$1.00 for ages 65+ or Permanently Disabled, children ages 0-4 ride for free with a paying adult, and children ages 5-14 for \$1.00 with paying adult.

As space permits, LPTS is beginning to offer transport within Fairfield County with a 48 hour reservation notice.

For more information, or to schedule a ride, call 740.681.5086 or visit their website at <http://www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/dept/transit/>.

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY'S NEWEST DIRECTOR

The Fairfield County Economic Development Department will have a new director next year. Shane W. Farnsworth was hired by the Fairfield County Commissioners in November and will begin his duties January 4, 2010. His previous position was as Planning Director with the Clark County Board of Commissioners in Springfield, Ohio. He has worked in economic development, management and planning since 1996.

Farnsworth has served as the direct point of contact for developers seeking to locate new businesses, industrial parks and commerce centers in Clark County. He also administered

that county's Enterprise Zone, and worked in its CDBG, Fair Housing and CHIP programs. He has experience with CEDA's and JEDD's.

Farnsworth was introduced to members of the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance at their Annual Stakeholders Event in November. He will assume a leadership role within the Alliance.

Farnsworth holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Planning from Wright State University and an Associate Degree in GIS from Hocking College.

## PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE RESULTS



The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance is pleased to announce a successful conclusion to the third annual Wage & Benefit Survey. The survey was conducted by JK Evans & Associates, LLC, a human resource consulting and labor relations consulting firm.

The survey is a valuable tool for local businesses to assess how their wages and benefits compare to the local labor market, and for planning pay increases. It's also a valuable economic development tool for the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance. Businesses who are consid-

ering locating to Fairfield County to be able to factor the cost of labor into their decision. This survey provides up-to-date wage and benefit information that gives Fairfield County an advantage over other communities who may not have this labor market information available. Just as importantly the survey tells perspective businesses that Fairfield County is a progressive, supportive and business-friendly community.

The survey contains current wage information on sixty-one jobs in a variety of occupational groups. It also reports on benefits offered, projected

pay increases and strategies employers are using to navigate through these difficult economic times. Names of the organizations that participated in the survey are confidential and are not published in the survey results. Businesses who participated in the survey will be mailed instructions and a password for accessing the results.

Companies who didn't participate this year will have an opportunity to participate in next year's survey scheduled for the fall of 2010.

**The survey indicated cost saving steps companies implemented in the past 12 months included reducing employee work hours and OT, layoffs and salary freezes.**

**The outlook for 2010 is brighter with 64% of respondents saying employee layoffs are not likely; 28% indicating layoffs are "somewhat likely, while only 8% felt they would have staffing reductions.**

## PROJECT SEARCH ADDS JOBS



Connecting Resources,  
Creating Opportunities

Project **SEARCH** is a one year high school transition program which provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities. The program started 13 years ago at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and has been successfully duplicated throughout the United States and in several other countries. Students learn employability and job skills while participating in internships in different departments within the hospital.

Project **SEARCH** is a total immersion program with students spending their entire day in the work place. The one hour of classroom time is spent learning skills which will help them with future employment. The remainder of their day is spent working in various departments in a medical or business setting. The ultimate goal upon program completion is competitive employment utilizing the skills learned at the internships and throughout the program.

The Fairfield County Project **SEARCH** began its first year in August 2009 and is off to a great start. The program is a collaboration between Eastland Fairfield Career Center, Fairfield Medical Center, Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Rehabilitation Services Commission. There are currently 6 students enrolled in the program. Managers at the internship sites in the medical center work with the Project **SEARCH** Instructor and job coaches to support the students. Students get continual feedback from the internship manager, co-workers and Project **SEARCH** staff. Students participate in three 10 week rotations.

Several departments at FMC have Project **SEARCH** employees. Other departments within the medical center have requested interns for future rotations. Fairfield Medical Center has done a great job of welcoming the students and

providing meaningful work experience. They have embraced the students and staff working with the projects. Missy McCrady, job coach with Project **SEARCH** stated that she cannot believe how welcoming and supportive the hospital staff have been. They have openly accepted the students and included the students as one of their staff. In addition, the staff at the hospital has spoken very highly of the program.

Becky Murray, R.N. at the Surgery Pavilion stated "Working with Project **SEARCH** has been a rewarding experience and a breath of fresh air...having students who are eager to learn new skills, ask good questions and get involved! It's been great!"

For more information, contact FairfieldDD Community Employment Services Manager Dianna Walters at 740.756.7874.

**...it's exciting to have students eager to learn new skills, ask good questions, and get involved."**

Becky Murray, RN  
Surgery Pavilion



Project **SEARCH** employee

Fairfield County  
Economic Development

Primary Business Address  
210 East Main Street  
Room 404  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130

Phone: 740.654.1509  
Fax: 740.681.4780  
E-mail: [lkauffman@co.fairfield.oh.us](mailto:lkauffman@co.fairfield.oh.us)

We're on the web  
[businesscounty.com](http://businesscounty.com)

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## CHAMBER & BUSINESS EVENTS

**December 1:** Arthur Treacher's 10 year Anniversary Ribbon Cutting 4pm

**December 1:** Mocktail Competition~Fairfield County Library~5pm

**December 4:** Aaron's Rental Center Ribbon Cutting~1418 Ety Pointe Dr~9:45am

**December 4:** *Business Women of Canal Winchester*~Harvest Moon ~8:30am

**December 9:** CWACC Networking Luncheon~11:30am~RSVP

**December 17:** PACC Monthly Luncheon~11:30~RSVP

**December 19:** *Lighted Holiday Parade*~Bremen~5pm

**December 19:** *Street Clock Lighting & Dedication*~5:45pm~Corner of Broad and Main



**Baltimore Chamber**  
Jean G. Farmer  
740.438.0837

**Bremen Chamber**  
Connie Moyer  
740.569.9150

**Canal Winchester Chamber**  
Kim Rankin  
614.837.1556

**Lancaster-Fairfield Chamber**  
Travis Markwood  
740.653.8251

**Pickerington Chamber**  
Helen Mayle  
614.837.1958

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**December 3:** Eastland Fairfield Career Center *Open House* 6-8pm~Both locations

**December 4:** *Victorian Holiday Gathering with Santa*~Olde Pickerington~5-9pm

**December 4-5:** *Christmas in the Village*~Canal Winchester~Santa Parade 5:15pm

**December 5:** Millersport Christmas Parade~Noon~740.467.3300

**December 5:** Kiwanis Pancake Festival~LHS~7am-1pm

**December 5:** *Blue Shoes Arts Christmas Open House*~4465 Coonpath~1-4pm

**December 5:** *Simply Christmas in Lithopolis*~10am-5pm~614.837.2031

**December 10-12:** Santa & Friends at Alley Park~6-8pm~740.687.6651

**December 10:** *Ohio State School for the Blind Concert*~1592 Granville Pike~1pm

**December 12:** *Main Street Winter Carnival*~Lancaster~noon-4pm~740.653.8251

**December 13:** Christmas Cantata *The Mystery and Majesty*~St. Marks Church~7pm

**December 14:** *Silent Night in Sugar Grove*~6pm~740.746.8684

**December 19:** *Olde Tyme Village Christmas*~Bremen~9am-1pm

**December 20:** *Lancaster Community Holiday Band Concert*~324 Gay St~2:30pm

