



The advantage is yours!

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Lancaster
State of the City Address
March 12, 2014
7:30am
Olivedale Senior Center

State of The County Address
March 25, 2014
11:30am-1:00pm
Liberty Center

Annual Chamber Dinners

Canal Winchester
March 14, 2014
Crossroads Church
Lithopolis

Baltimore
March 29, 2014
VFW
Taste of Tuscany

AEP CUSTOMERS GET gridSMART®

AEP Ohio is working with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to determine details for gridSMART® Phase 2, which includes installation of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to approximately 900,000 customers, including 23,129 in Fairfield County.

GridSMART® Phase 2 is built upon proven technologies implemented during the company's gridSMART Demonstration Project. The four-year project, conducted in northeast central Ohio, allowed AEP Ohio to determine what smart grid technologies worked best for both customers and the company.

AEP Ohio is proposing to install AMI, also known as smart meters, in more than 30 communities throughout its service territory. Using two-way communication capabilities, the technology provides near real-time meter readings and the secure transfer of customers' usage information to AEP Ohio for billing and operational purposes which improves billing accuracy. AMI gives customers information needed to use electricity more efficiently. AEP Ohio also is integrating AMI with service restoration systems that will allow the company to better detect power outages so repairs can be completed more quickly.

In addition, gridSMART Phase 2 will offer distribution automation circuit reconfiguration (DACR) to improve the reliability of 250 distribution circuits and volt var optimization (VVO) to better control the voltage of 80 distribution circuits. DACR im-

proves reliability by "self-healing" the distribution system, which means fewer outages and quicker restoration times. VVO achieves energy efficiency by better controlling and monitoring the voltage levels on a distribution circuit, which ultimately reduces the energy consumption by customers on that circuit. It has not yet been determined which circuits will receive DACR and VVO .



"AEP Ohio is proud to bring these advanced technologies to our customers," said Karen Slonaker, director, AEP Ohio customer services and marketing. "Recent significant weather events prove that the modernization of the electricity distribution grid can pinpoint damage more quickly allowing for faster restoration times."

After receiving PUCO approval, customers will be notified as to when these technologies will be installed in their area over a four-year period. Updates will be posted online at AEPOhio.com/gridsmart2.

Article and photo submitted by:
Suzanne Priore
AEP Ohio

COUNTY'S MAJOR EMPLOYERS

The research project to identify the major employers in the county is almost complete and the list should be available soon. Fairfield County Economic Development undertakes this project every year. Because there is no clearing house for these research numbers, the office calls or emails those companies, agencies of public institutions it understands to have large employment numbers.

As the office is finalizing the list, and your office or agency has not yet been contacted, or you have

been contacted, but not yet returned that phone call, please call 740.652.7160.

The list might be used in research to support a bond issue or it might be used by site selectors or realtors to get an understanding of the county.

Please help Fairfield County by making this list as complete and accurate as possible.

2013 ANNUAL REPORT FOR OHIO'S COMMON SENSE INITIATIVE (CSI)

Ohio Lt. Governor Mary Taylor released Ohio's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) 2013 Annual Report including key findings and regulatory reform efforts for the past year. In the two years since Ohio's business rules have been reviewed as part of CSI, business rule filings have slowed by 25 percent compared to the historical average. The report highlights the CSI rule review process which was initiated in 2012, as well as the efforts of CSI to directly address the burdensome regulations that stifle job creation in Ohio.

"Since 2011, Governor Kasich and I have focused on creating a better environment in Ohio for small businesses to expand, create jobs and grow our economy," said Taylor. "Part of that effort includes reducing government red tape while making sure regulations that are necessary make sense and protect the health and safety of all Ohioans. The results show Ohio's regulatory environment is improving, our economy is growing, but there is still more work to do."

In 2013, the CSI Office reviewed more than 1,500 proposed rules. For each business rule, agencies are required to articulate why the regulation is necessary, how the agency worked with its stakeholders to develop the rule, how the rule impacts business, and why the purpose of the regulation justifies that business impact. If the agency hasn't justified the need for the rule, the CSI Office can make recommendations to reduce the impact in the rule, to improve the analysis, or even to go back to the drawing board on the rule. The reduction in business rule filings – 1,519 in 2012 and 1,543 in 2013, down from the historical average of 2,044 from 2003 to 2011 – demonstrates that agencies take the CSI standards seriously.

In addition, 2013 provided a number of opportunities to work directly with businesses to resolve regulatory burdens that were standing in their way. Examples of these efforts include CSI assisting non-profit organizations that provide meals to students before and after school as well

as during the summer; making it easier for a hospital to navigate licensing regulations in order to recruit qualified nurses from the military; and helping several businesses get building permits approved in order to expand their operations.

Launched on Jan. 10, 2011 by Governor Kasich and placed under the leadership of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, CSI is reforming Ohio's regulatory policies and helping make Ohio a jobs and business friendly state. CSI reviews Ohio's regulatory system to eliminate excessive and duplicative rules and regulations that stand in the way of job creation.

[View the Annual Report or to submit ideas on cutting red tape.](#)

Like and Follow CSI



"MADE IN RURAL AMERICA"

The President directed his Administration, working through the White House Rural Council, to lead a new 'Made in Rural America' export and investment initiative. This initiative is charged with bringing together federal resources to help rural businesses and leaders take

advantage of new investment opportunities and access new customers and markets abroad.

Specifically, the President has instructed his Rural Council – in coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Small

Business Administration, the Export-Import Bank, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and other agencies to commit to connecting more rural businesses of all types to export information and assistance through a comprehensive strategy. To view the commitments [click here](#).

OHIO BROWNFIELD CONFERENCE 2014!

The Conference is being held Wednesday, April 9 through Thursday, April 10 of this year at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. We have a great agenda and interesting keynote speakers planned for this year, and the draft-final agenda can now be found on the Ohio Brownfield Conference webpage [here](#).

As in the past, we will be hosting a reception with a cash bar in the Exhibit Area

during the first evening of the Conference. We are looking for exhibitors and conference attendees to sponsor refreshments for the reception.

All registration fees must be paid by credit card (no exceptions) and are non-refundable. Certified Professionals can earn up to 9 PDHUs for attending the conference!

The Attendee Registration Page

[Click Here](#)

The Exhibitor Registration Page

[Click Here](#)

OPEN ENROLLMENT THRU MARCH 31

The marketplace is still open for enrollment in Fairfield County and it is important for those who are uninsured.

The application for an affordable healthcare plan is available at healthcare.gov and open enrollment continues until March 31, 2014.

"To receive your healthcare services locally, it is important for you to know which plans your providers are participating in," said Sharon Scruggs, FMC

Contracts and Collections manager. "[Fairfield Medical Center and Fairfield Healthcare Professionals are only in network with two marketplace plans.](#)"

Scruggs noted those healthcare plans include:
Anthem (Gold, Silver, Bronze) Direct Access Plan
Medical Mutual (Gold, Silver, Bronze) Market Classic

For questions or more information,

please contact the Fairfield Medical Center Business Office to speak to a Certified Application Counselor at (740) 687-8025.

Learn how the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace works from this three step infographic. For more information about the Affordable Care Act, visit [BusinessUSA](#). > [Infographic](#)

SBA FREE FINANCING WEBINARS

The Small Business Administration Columbus District Office will present a FREE webinar for small business owners and entrepreneurs through ATT Connect. This webinar will provide information about financing options for your business; SBA loans, programs and services; how to apply for a loan; and, what to include in your business plan.

The webinar should last about 40 minutes with a Q&A at the end. ATT Connect is a call-in and web site login conferencing system which provides an audio presentation over the phone and a video presentation over the internet.

All that is needed to participate is a computer with internet access and a phone to call a toll-free number. This webinar will be offered in 2014 on the following dates and times:

The Webinar is FREE, but registration is required so that you may receive instructions and the access code needed to participate.

You may register by contacting Robin Wotring at (614)469-6860 x282 or robin.wotring@sba.gov. Please indicate which webinar session you wish to attend.

Dates & Times

March 11	2pm
April 10	11am
May 6	2pm
June 5	11am
July 15	2pm
August 14	11am
September 9	2pm
October 9	11am
November 4	2pm
December 4	11am

FARM TO SCHOOLS GRANTS

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the release of a request for applications for the third round of USDA's Farm to School grants, including the addition of a new funding track. These grants help eligible schools improve the health and wellbeing of their students and connect with local agricultural producers.

"Connecting American farmers and ranchers with the National School Lunch Program provides schoolchildren with daily access to locally sourced, healthy foods," said Vilsack. "These Farm to School grants will help schools respond to the growing demand for local foods and increase market opportunities for many types of food producers."

Three different kinds of grants will be available, as well as a separate funding track to support trainings and events. Planning grants are intended for schools just getting started on farm to school activities. Implementation grants are

available for schools seeking to augment or expand existing efforts. Additionally, eligible non-profit entities, Indian tribal organizations, state and local agencies, and agriculture producers or groups of producers may apply for support service grants in order to conduct trainings, create complementary curriculum, or further develop supply chains, among other activities. Proposals are due at 11:59 p.m. EST, April 30, 2014.

New in FY 2015, USDA funds will be made available to support meetings, trainings, and events intended to strengthen farm to school supply chains or provide technical assistance. The Training and Event funds range from \$15,000 - \$50,000. USDA expects to distribute approximately \$500,000 in additional funds to support at least one statewide or regional meeting in all seven FNS regions and at least one national conference. Letters of Intent are due at 11:59 p.m. EST, April 2, 2014. To assist eligible entities in preparing

proposals, USDA will host a series of webinars related to the application process:

- Mar 11, 2014, 1:00 Planning Grants
- Mar 12, 2014, 1:00 Implementation Grants
- March 13, 2014, 1:00 Support Service Grants
- Mar 14, 2014, 1:00 Training and Event Funding Track

The Farm to School Grant Program is a cornerstone of USDA's **Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative**, which coordinates the Department's work on local and regional foods. The grant program was initiated by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA), which authorized and funded USDA to assist eligible entities, through grants and technical assistance, in implementing farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools.

[Read More Here](#)



ON-LINE TRAINING THROUGH SBA

Contracting for Veteran Entrepreneurs

Free self-paced training exercise for Veterans to act as a introduction to Federal contracting opportunities.

Topics include basic information about Veteran-owned businesses and opportunities, services available to small Veteran-owned businesses, small business incentives, and government procurement methods. [More Info](#)

Success With Online Reviews

Join the SBA and Yelp for webinars as part of their effort to provide America's small businesses with the information you need to successfully engage with online reviewers and tips for monitoring your online reputation. [More Info](#)

Dates/Time

February 25, 2pm ET | [Register Now](#)

Affordable Care Act 101

With new health insurance marketplaces open, the SBA and Small Business Majority are hosting free Affordable Care Act 101 weekly webinars so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces.

Date/Time

February 27 | [Register Now](#)

INTERN TODAY....CAREER TOMORROW

CareerQuest is an unpaid internship program in partnership with Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools and industry. This program gives businesses an opportunity to "grow your own employees!"

CareerQuest places our eleventh grade high school students in an unpaid internship position with local businesses from our following career & technical programs:

- Financial Services
- Medical Office Technologies

Students will spend 6 school days on-site this Spring, 2014, in positions completing hands-on workplace activities related to their career and technical training.

Students' technical skills will be reviewed with businesses prior to placement to match business' needs. If your business would be interested in participating in the CareerQuest program, please contact Jane Briggs, Financial Services Teacher at 614-836-5725 or email jbriggs@efcts.us

Internship Schedule

Thursday, April 24
Thursday, May 1
Thursday, May 8
Thursday, May 15
Thursday, May 22
Thursday, May 29

OHIO UNIVERSITY APPLICATION FAIR

Lancaster – High school students from around Fairfield County are being invited to Ohio University Lancaster | Pickerington throughout the month of February to help them save money on application fees and possibly save more money on college tuition. The first Application Fair is being held Monday evening from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

"The scholarship deadline for students entering college next fall is March 1," said Admissions Advisor Nate Thomas. "We want to encourage area high school students to get their application for admissions and scholarships filled out and turned in before the deadline, so they are eligible for the scholarships we offer at Ohio University Lancaster | Pickerington. "

The first Application Fair on Monday, February 10, is open to students from

Amanda Clearcreek and Fisher Catholic. The schedule for other high schools in the area is listed below. The event will be held in the computer lab on the upper level of the Hannah V. McCauley Library in Brasee Hall. All students who attend the fair will have the application fee waived.

"Ohio University Lancaster | Pickerington is an open enrollment campus which means there is no admission deadline. So some students procrastinate about filling out their application," said Thomas. "But, if they turn in their application after March 1, their paperwork is not reviewed to see if they qualify for a scholarship. So, the decision to wait to apply may have cost them a great deal of money."

Students can come anytime between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to fill out the application.



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Lancaster | Pickerington

Application Fair Schedule

Monday, Feb. 24 – Pickerington North
(Location: Ohio University Pickerington Center)

Wednesday, Feb. 26 – Bloom Carroll
(Location: Lancaster Campus Library, 2nd Floor computer lab)

*All events are from
4p.m. to 6:30p.m.

OHIO UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES WOMEN

Online registration is now open for Ohio University-Lancaster and -Pickerington's Celebrate Women 2014 conference. The event will be March 21 at the OU-L campus. The annual conference is planned in conjunction with Women's History Month.

The focus of the event is to bridge women's relationships from the areas of community, university and business. The theme for this year's event is "Stand Up, Stand Out!", and internationally recognized media educator Jean Kilbourne is the keynote speaker.

Kilbourne is known for her pioneering work on the image of women in advertising and her critical studies of alcohol and tobacco advertising. All who register for Celebrate Women will get a ticket to the Kilbourne presentation.

People who don't attend Celebrate Women can attend the Kilbourne speech for free, but they must reserve a seat through an online ticketing system.

Registration information, free tickets to see just Kilbourne, and a full list of panel topics and panelists are available on the Celebrate Women website. [Click Here](#)



IMPROVE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS



A new year means a new opportunity to develop your leadership skills and work toward professional goals. A perfect opening is at your fingertips. The Pickerington LEADS program is now enrolling for the 2014 class. This is an amazing opportunity for personal leadership development and a chance to build business relationships through network-

ing. The Pickerington LEADS program is seven classes beginning in February that consist of community visits, guest speakers and practical experiences through a community class project. In your sessions you will gain a better understanding of your personal leadership style and how to implement your strengths in your everyday and professional life. A few of this year's topics include learning how to better understand and motivate teams you work with, how to communicate clearly and precisely, how to manage difficult situations along with critical conversations and how to develop a

strong team around you. Each topic is covered within significant locations of our community such as the Pickerington police department, fire department, library, city council and Violet Township offices.

Along with the skills that are fine-tuned, students will also gain long term friendships and priceless contacts. We encourage you to submit your application for the 2014 Pickerington LEADS class today. For additional information please contact Helen Mayle in the Chamber of Commerce office 614-837-1958 or president@pickeringtonchamber.com

SENIORS HEALTH FAIR

In celebration of its fourth anniversary, Diley Ridge Medical Center is hosting a special health fair just for seniors and their caregivers. It's their way of saying thanks for making them such a welcome member of the Fairfield County community.

In addition to light refreshments, they will also be offering a number of free screenings and access to some great community resources.

Screenings

- Glucose
- Blood pressure
- Balance
- BMI

Community Resources

- Home care
- Durable medical equipment
- Assisted living
- Skilled nursing
- And more

March 18, 2014
4 to 6:30pm

7911 Diley Road
Canal Winchester, OH

**DILEY RIDGE
 MEDICAL CENTER**

MOUNT CARMEL Fairfield Medical Center

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS..APPLICATIONS..FAFSA

It's the time of year where high school students start to really narrow down their choices for college, and adults make a New Year's resolution to go back to school. Enrollment and admissions officials at Ohio University Lancaster | Pickerington encourage future college students to take the time to visit the campuses that they are considering.

The Ohio University Lancaster Campus and Pickerington Center offer future students the opportunity to visit and ask questions. On the Lancaster Campus, students can attend a "High School Visit Day." At the Pickerington Center, "Visit Days" are held the first

Thursday of every month. Some are held in the morning and are ideal for high school students; others are held in the evening and are ideal for adult students returning to school.

Students seeking scholarships should try to come to one of the February visits because March 1 is the scholarship application deadline.

If a student is interested in signing up for a visit day, they can do so online at www.ohio.edu/lancaster/about/visit.

It takes 23 minutes to fill out the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online.

[Find out](#) the 7 pieces of information students need to complete the required form and learn why there are no excuses for not getting started now! Check out the [6 steps](#) to applying for financial aid.

Applications for the Wagnalls Memorial Scholarships for 2014/15 are available at the Patron Services desk or online at www.wagnalls.org. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2014.

JOB-RELATED EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND MORE

As a way to help expand your professional opportunities, check out [job-related education and training information on CareerOneStop](#). You'll find resources on certifications, apprenticeships, financial aid, and more.

Visit USA.gov's Finding a Job to search for jobs, get resume and interview tips, and avoid job scams.

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS COME TOGETHER

The Ohio Business Matchmaker is a unique event designed to bring together potential qualified suppliers with buyers from federal, state, local and prime contractors to fulfill their contracting needs and requirements. Buyers and suppliers will have the opportunity to meet for 10 minutes in one-on-one sessions to discuss billions of dollars' worth of upcoming opportunities. This event also provides training sessions aimed at guiding small, minority, veteran, woman and HUBZone businesses on requirements and expectations on how to do business with government agencies and prime contractors.

<p>When: Tuesday, April 22, 2014 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Training and Registration</p> <p>Wednesday, April 23, 2014 7:30 am – 4:30 p.m. Registration, Business Matchmaker and Training</p>	<p>Where: Hope Hotel and Richard C. Holbrooke Conference Center 10823 Chidlaw Road, Building #823, Area A, Gate 12A Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433</p>	<p>Registration: Buyer registration will open February 1, 2014 and supplier registration will open on March 1, 2014.</p> <p>Registration information, visit us at www.CheckOhioFirst.com (614) 466-2711</p>
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WAGNALLS NEW DIRECTOR



The Wagnalls Memorial Foundation Board of Directors appointed John Bitler as the new Executive Director at a recent meeting. Bitler has served as Development Director for Wagnalls since the retirement of the former Executive Director, Ellen Gruber last year.

Bitler intends to carry on a family tradition in helping Wagnalls to succeed. "I am honored to carry on the proud traditions of my father-in-

law, Woodrow Haynes, who served as a member of the Wagnalls Board for over 30 years, and my mother-in-law, Mariellen Haynes, who was a long-standing member of the Lithopolis Area Fine Arts Association (LAFAA)" Bitler said.

FAIRHOPE AWARD

FairHoPe Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. recently received the 2014 Community Partner Award from Columbus CEO Magazine. FairHoPe Hospice received their award at the second annual HealthCare Achievement Awards Thursday, February 13.



"We are so grateful to have received the Community Partner Award from Columbus CEO Magazine," said Denise Bauer, CEO of FairHoPe Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. "We're honored and blessed to be able to serve our community."



INVITATION FROM MAYOR EBERT

You are invited to a public open house February 27, 2014 from 5 to 8pm at the Rickenbacker Terminal, 2241 John Circle Dr., Columbus, OH. The meeting will focus on an attempt to bring the new KC-46a Aircraft to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. [Click Here for details.](#) [Directions.](#)

The support of the public and Local Community is vital to the survival of Rickenbacker Air Force Base. Six - C-135 refueling aircraft have already been taken from Rickenbacker in an attempt to reduce the National Budget. The KC-46a Aircraft will be new and will take the place of all C-130's across the country, but if Ricken-

backer is not selected for the KC-46a it will likely be the end of the Air National Guard at Rickenbacker AFB and possibly the other military branches stationed there as well. This is something our local communities should not take lightly. At Rickenbacker the Guard, the passenger Air Port and Fed EX all feed off of each other and help each other. Losing one could be disastrous to the others and the millions of dollars they represent to our communities. The people who work there are your neighbors and friends and spend their hard earned dollars at your businesses.

I'm asking for as many people as possible to show up for this open house and ask

questions about Rickenbacker and ask how they can help. It's now or never. Your voice can make a difference. Help me show Rickenbacker that Canal Winchester and surrounding communities do care what happens.

[Read More](#)

For questions contact Victor Wilson, Ohio National Guard Association, Legislative Co-Chair, Air National Guard at 614-581-7300.

Thanks,
Mayor
Mike Ebert

CANAL WINCHESTER CHAMBER DATES

CWACC will hold its [annual Chamber Expo and Awards Dinner on Friday, March 14, 2014](#) at Crossroads Church in Lithopolis, OH.



Business Is Our Business
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber members will join with community leaders and dignitaries to celebrate a year of business growth in and around Canal Winchester. Awards of distinction at the annual dinner will be presented in the following categories:

- 2013 Business of the Year
- 2013 Business Person of the Year
- 2013 Pillar of the Community.

Nominations are being accepted now through February 7 on the chamber's website.

CWACC announces the formation of a partnership with Coggno, the premier Learning Management System (LMS) and online training marketplace, to facilitate the purchase of popular online training courses

from the company's vast online library. Clients can access Coggno online training courses directly through the Canal Winchester Area website, and purchase as few or as many courses needed.

For more information on any of these programs or events, contact Amanda Lemke, President, Canal Winchester Area Chamber of Commerce, 614.837.1556

BARIATRICS & LINX® AT FMC

Fairfield Medical Center is one of three hospitals in Central Ohio offering the FDA-approved treatment called the LINX® System for people who suffer from gastro esophageal reflux disease (GERD).

The LINX is a small, flexible band of magnets enclosed in titanium beads and surgically placed around the esophagus, just above the stomach. The magnetic attraction between the beads helps keep the weak lower esophageal sphincter closed to prevent acid and bile from flowing back from the stomach into the esophagus.

"The paradigm for the diagnosis and treatment of GERD is changing," said Dr. Elwood Martin, medical director for the Fairfield Medical Heartburn Center. "As we learn more about the disease, we are recognizing that every patient should have an individualized treatment plan based on their disease. The LINX is the next logical

step as we expand and revolutionize the treatment of GERD."

To learn more, Dr. Martin will lead a seminar from 6:30-7:30 pm March 4 in Assembly Room 3. RSVP by calling (740) 687-8007.

For additional information call (740) 689-6486.

Fairfield Medical Center's bariatric surgery program will celebrates its first year anniversary in February, with 47 weight loss surgeries performed to date.

Bariatric surgeon Dr. Timothy Custer leads FMC's multi-disciplinary bariatric team, designed to educate and prepare patients for surgery while ensuring optimal success for each patient in the months and years following surgery.

"Obesity and its associated consequences currently represent the single greatest health threat to those in Fairfield County," Dr. Custer said. "Conversely, no medical or surgical intervention exists that can come close to resolving as many medical problems or effecting such profound benefits as bariatric surgery. Patients routinely lose over 100 pounds, discontinue most of their medications and experience life-altering, positive change, all for the same risk as gallbladder or knee surgery."

Bariatric surgery is part of a comprehensive program at FMC called Healthy Weigh for Life. The program is designed for those seeking a more permanent weight-loss solution. To learn more about FMC's surgical and non-surgical weight loss options, call (740) 689-4460.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The American Red Cross is strengthening efforts to recruit new volunteers to help out in times of emergency. There are volunteer opportunities in relief work, office work, teaching and many more.

“Red Cross volunteers touch lives every day,” said Jeff Miller, Executive Director, American Red Cross of Fairfield and Hocking counties. “They’re amazing people who selflessly help strangers as some of the worst moments of their lives. Still, they often tell us how they find their own lives changed in the process of helping others.”

Those interested in becoming volunteers

can learn how to sign up for assignments and how to seek out different kinds of roles within the organization. There are opportunities down the road to potentially deploy to large-scale disasters in other areas. Volunteers are always trained prior to engagement.

Anyone interested in learning more about becoming a Red Cross volunteer should call 740.687.5585.



UW OFFERS FREE TAX PREP

The United Way of Fairfield County is again providing Free tax Preparation to Income eligible families as well as individuals over the age of 60. United Way staff is now preparing Federal, State and School District taxes throughout the Fairfield County Community until April 15.

Make an appointment with an IRS certified staff member of walk-in at your convenience. Call 740.653.0643

Income Guidelines:

Household Income must be under \$52,000
OR

Taxpayer or spouse must be over the age of 60
(No income restrictions)

No bankruptcies in 2013

No Rental Income

Limited Self-Employment Expenses

“LEND ME A TENOR” COMING TO OUL

The Ohio University Lancaster Theatre program plans to make you laugh until it hurts this April. “Lend Me a Tenor” is the OUL Theatre’s spring production.

“It’s so much fun. It takes place in Cleveland, Ohio in the 1930’s,” said OUL Theatre Director Victor Jones. “It’s a two-act play with a lot of physical comedy involved.”

“Lend Me a Tenor” is a story about the general manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company and his attempt to bring a world famous tenor to appear for one night only. The star arrives late and, through a hilarious series of mishaps, is given a double dose of tranquilizers and passes out.

“The actors in the production have actually started a training regimen,” said Jones. “They are all walking on the tread mill three days a week, 20 to 30 minutes a day, because there is so much physical comedy involved in it.”

The show will be performed at the Wagner Theatre on the Ohio University Lancaster Campus located at 1570 Granville Pike.

“The stamina needed to keep this going can be exhausting. Physical comedy is not easy to pull off for two hours. It’s a marathon,” said Jones.

DATES & TIMES

April 3-5 at 7pm
April 6 at 2pm

April 10-12 at 7pm
April 13 at 2pm

Tickets \$10-12
Reserved Seating

All tickets at the door \$12.00

Box Office 740.654.6711 x650
<https://commerce.cashnet.com/oul-theatre>

“FROM OUR ARCHIVES TO YOUR EYES” MARCH 15

Join other Ohio Glass Museum patrons for the opening night gala of the newest exhibit “From Our Archives to your Eyes” March 15 from 7-9pm. Located at 124 West Main Street in Lancaster the museum will display glass pieces that they have received since the official opening May 20, 2006.

This collection will include not only locally produced glass but pieces from pieces from other glass making establishments, past and present, made in the state of Ohio and produced in other states. Attendees always look for glass items made while they were growing up or pieces they

themselves had.

Call the museum to reserve your spot. The number at 740.687.0101 by March 7. For a donation of \$10.00 you can enjoy the exhibit, light refreshments, a glass blowing demonstration and the gift shop.

RLF LOANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

HISTORY

The Fairfield County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) was created in 1992, using grants from two separate agencies – the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), Office of Housing and Community Partnerships, through its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Matching funds were contributed by the City of Lancaster and Fairfield County.

The purpose of the Revolving Loan Fund is to assist new or existing small businesses achieve their goals and create jobs in Fairfield County.

Typical loans range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 with a fixed rate that is generally 2 points below prime at the time of application. Terms vary according to collateral and may be up to 20 years.

The EDA Revolving Loan Fund may be used throughout Fairfield County, while the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund cannot be used within the City of Lancaster or City of Canal Winchester.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Loans may be made to private, for-profit businesses located in Fairfield County. Applicants may be in the manufacturing, agribusiness, wholesale, service and/or retail sectors and must have fewer than 200 employees. All taxes must be current and an Equal Opportunity Employment policy must be in place and followed.

Loan applications may need to be prioritized. Criteria may include the enterprise's ownership, (women or minorities), number of jobs created, industry, and/or reinvestment in an existing facility.

Funds received from the Revolving Loan Fund may be used to purchase land or an existing building, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, inventory, and possibly a limited amount of working capital. Funds cannot be used to restructure existing debt.

An application must be processed before a project begins.

HOW TO APPLY

Speak with your banker first. The Revolving Loan Fund can only lend money in conjunction with a lending institution. RLF participa-

tion is determined by the bank's willingness to lend money for a project.

The application package requires the same information as your bank, including tax returns, a business plan for start-ups, financial reports and projections for existing, expanding businesses, a personal financial statement, and a signed application detailing the project and requested use of funds.

The RLF process from application to loan approval and disbursement of funds can take from 6 weeks to 4 months, depending upon the project and fund requirements.

The application is presented to the Loan Review Committee, which meets the third Tuesday of every month. This committee discusses the application and reviews the strength of the borrower and viability of the proposed project. Plan ahead, ask your commercial lender if the RLF can be a participant in your project and call the office for the program and the process.

LOAN FUND BALANCES

As of February 24, 2014

EDA \$ 523,582.97
CDBG \$ 107,284.79

Scheduled Loan Review Committee (LRC) Meetings

March 18, 2014
April 15, 2014
May 20, 2014

Loan applications should be received in the Fairfield County Economic Development office at least two weeks prior to a scheduled LRC meeting if possible.

740.652.7160

ARE YOU READY TO START A BUSINESS ?

Many people dream of having their own business. To see if starting a business is right for you, ask yourself some important questions.

The questions at the right will help you identify your readiness to start a business. [Click Here](#) for a Free Readiness Assessment.

When you are ready, call Fairfield County Economic Development to help make your dream a reality.

- ◇ Am I prepared to spend the time, money and resources needed to get my business started?
- ◇ What kind of business do I want?
- ◇ What products/services will my business provide?
- ◇ Why am I starting a business?
 - ◇ How much money do I need to get my business set up?
- ◇ Who are my customers and who is my competition?
- ◇ Will I need to get a loan?
- ◇ Do I have professional people to help me ** a banker, a lawyer, an accountant?
- ◇ What will be the legal structure of the company?
- ◇ How long can I finance the company until I start making a profit?

**Fairfield County
Economic
Development**

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rdclark@co.fairfield.oh.us
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lkauffman@co.fairfield.oh.us



*Make Fairfield County
Your Advantage!*

Chamber Contacts
Click on a Chamber

Baltimore (BACC)
Kasey Farmer
740.438.0837

Bremen
Mike Hermick
740.569.9150

**Canal Winchester
(CWACC)**
Amanda Lemke
614.837.1556

Lancaster-Fairfield
Travis Markwood
740.653.8251

**Pickerington
(PACC)**
Helen Mayle
614.837.1958

CHAMBER & BUSINESS EVENTS

RECURRING CHAMBER NETWORKING LUNCHEONS

*RSVP's Needed [Visit Chamber website or call]
Location and time may vary with a Special Event*

Lancaster/Fairfield : First Wednesday at 11:30am at 230 North Columbus Street
Baltimore : Second Tuesday at 6:00pm at Baltimore VFW Post 3761
Canal Winchester : Second Wednesday at 11:30am at 22 Trine Street [Senior Center]
Pickerington: Third Thursday at 11:30 at 150 Hereford Drive [Senior Center]
Bremen: Fourth Tuesday at Noon at 161 Carter Street [Bremen Historical Society]

February 28: W4W~8:00am~Colonial Heights~Lancaster

March 7: WLC~8:00-9:00am~201 Clint Drive~Pickerington~Allvera

March 12: Lancaster *State of the City*~7:30am~Olivedale ~RSVP 740.653.8251

March 12: Free Excel Webinar~2:00pm~[Pre-Registration](#)

March 25: State of the County~Liberty Center~11:30am~RSVP 740.653.8251

March 26: *Young Professionals of Lancaster Power breakfast*~7:30am~239 W. Main St.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb 23-Mar 27: The Last Big Show of Bob Wright~ [More Info and Registration](#)

Feb 28-Mar 1: "60 Years of Rock & Roll"~8:00pm~Millersport~[More](#)

Mar 1: "*The Great American Songbook, Stage-Door Canteen*" ~8:00pm~[More](#)

Mar 2: Lancaster CCA: Eric Augis Trio~3:00pm~Fairfield-Union HS

Mar 7-9: "*A Hill of Magic Beans or Here's Looking at you Jack*"~OUL~[More](#)

Mar 7-9: *36th Annual Home & Garden Show*~Fairfield County Fairgrounds~ [More](#)

Mar 8: *Maple Tapping Festival and Pancake Breakfast*~8am-Noon~ Alley Park~[More](#)

Mar 14-Mar23: "Harvey"~*Pickerington Community Theatre Production*~ [More](#)

Mar 16: Lancaster Community Band Concert~2:00pm~Faith Memorial Church

Mar 16: "*Around the World in 80 Days*"~4pm~*Crossroads Ministry Center*~*Comm. Chorus*

Mar 22: FORKS 39th Annual Model Airplane Show~8:30am-1pm~[More](#)

Mar 23: Lanc. Fairfield Youth Choir Winter Concert~3pm~222 N. Broad St. Lanc.

Mar 25: Blood Drive ~1pm-7pm ~Bremen Methodist Church

Mar28-30: *Garret Players "Crimes of the Heart"*~*Fri-Sat7pm, Sun2pm*~219 N. Board St.

Mar 30: Lancaster Choral, "Pure Entertainment"~4pm~Fairfield-Union HS