

MCEDC May Newsletter 2021



First Federal Lakewood provides deposit, lending, residential mortgage lending, cash management, and investment services to individuals and businesses. They are the largest independent depositor-owned bank headquartered in Ohio, with assets of \$2.3 billion. No matter what your business needs are, they have the right business banking products, service, and advice to help you. By understanding your goals and your unique preferences, they will help you navigate the ever-changing local and regional business climate.

Since 1935, they have worked for our business and consumer depositors, not shareholders. So, they continually reinvest funds into the local business community, helping to boost neighborhood economic growth for all. They are proud to have been there to assist the local community over the past several months. They know and have never forgotten that your success is their success, especially during challenging times.

For more information on First Federal Lakewood's business and commercial banking products, visit FFL.net/Business or contact Kurt Kappa, Chief Lending Officer, at (216) 529-2998 or kkappa@ffl.net.

State of the Cities / Village

Each year MCEDC's members hear an update from Carl DeForrest, City Manager of Brunswick, Mayor Dennis Hanwell of Medina, Mayor Carol Carter of Seville, and Mayor Robin Laubaugh of Wadsworth, and 2021 was no exception. Each municipal leader was asked to discuss how COVID affected their budgets, what their cities are doing to help with addiction and getting folks back to work, and what roadwork construction could be expected this year. Everyone that reported 2020 ended much better than anticipated, and while all took steps to ensure fiscal stability, they were able to meet the challenges and needs of residents.

COVID was challenging for everyone, but people in recovery were especially hard hit. The cities team up with county resources to provide a number of support services through the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board, Hope Recovery, Ohio Guidestone, Ohio Department of Mental Health, and the Recovery Center of Medina County.

Member News

Discount Drug Mart presented the Medina County Historical Society with a check for \$10,000 toward the purchase and renovation of the McDowell-Phillips House. Thank you for your support of our communities!

Rea and Associates is pleased to welcome Connor Crawford, Grant Hay, and Sean Grady, three new CPAs at the firm. Congratulations!

Eyedeal Graphics of Wadsworth brought Brendon Lucas on board as a graphic designer this month. Welcome to the team, Brendon.

Brian Harr of Huntington Bank has been appointed to the Medina County District Library Board of Trustees. With his past experience as a board member of MCEDC, we can confidently say he will do a terrific job!

Congratulations to Tim Kersey on his promotion to CEO -

The City of Wadsworth also works through a pastor network to offer support meetings, has brought in outpatient services and a sober living home, and is very engaged in getting these individuals into the workforce, as recovery specialists all agree that a job is a key part of addiction recovery.

As Ohioans, we are all familiar with the orange barrels on display from April through November and 2021 will see its fair share. Each community is expecting significant road improvement projects as well as improvements to infrastructure that may impact traffic. All agreed they endeavor to partner with Medina County and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), to keep traffic running smoothly.

Several communities are planning to install electronic vehicle charging stations which will be available to the public. Streetscape projects and utility upgrades are also on the horizon.

Overall, the officials shared a very forward-thinking and strong future for residents. The ability to manage through crisis was evident in how well the cities and villages in Medina County came through the pandemic and are now looking ahead to when things are back to normal. Our municipal leaders are always listening to residents and working to anticipate needs.

MCEDC would like to thank the officials for speaking and their ongoing support of economic development!

U.S. Operations of Soprema located in Wadsworth. Tim has successfully grown the operation both organically as well as through mergers and acquisitions, and we are excited to see the great things to come for this manufacturing leader.

Tom Hill and Jackie Guttman of The Ruhlin Company have both been promoted recently. Tom is now the Project Manager for the Civil Division and Jackie is a Project Manager / Estimator. Congratulations to you both!

Congratulations to Tony Stanislo, otherwise known as Chef Tony, of the Medina County Career Center on being named this year's Homer B. Smith Teacher of Excellence. It is a well-deserved honor!

The Medina County Career Center also announced that their new Construction Trades Lab has been dedicated in honor of Don Simmons. Don provided years of guidance and support to many of our school programs and local businesses, and we agree this is a wonderful way to celebrate his legacy.

Roger Wright, director of the Four Cities Compact, was recognized as the Ohio Association for Career Technical Education Administrator of the year. Congratulations, Roger - well deserved!

MCEDC Energy Program

Accelerated Depreciation on Energy Efficiency Projects

Energy efficiency projects can provide economic benefits in a number of different ways, such as with the help of the 179D Tax Deduction. The 179D Commercial Buildings Energy Efficiency Tax Deduction allows building owners to claim a tax deduction on eligible lighting, building envelope, or HVAC projects. Eligible projects can qualify for up to \$1.80 per square foot. The 179D acts as an accelerated depreciation towards the overall cost of the project.

The accelerated depreciation works best for plant, property and equipment that are otherwise depreciated over a longer time horizon, such as a 15- to 30-year depreciation schedule. In order to qualify, the project must reduce the building's total energy when compared to ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers) Standard 90.1-2007. We can assist in evaluating the opportunity and completing the necessary paperwork.

If you have recently completed an energy efficiency project or are embarking on a new one and are interested in learning more, please contact Claire Wilson at cwilson@ceateam.com.

Next TechCred Round Launches June 1st

The next round of TechCred opens on June 1st and closes on June 30th at 3:00 p.m.

Ohio businesses can visit TechCred.Ohio.gov to apply and help their employees earn a short-term, technology-focused credential at no cost. Not only can businesses upskill their current employees, but they can upskill those they plan to hire as long as they are on the payroll at the time of reimbursement.

More than 1,100 Ohio businesses have used TechCred, some having used it multiple times, creating the opportunity for 19,841 technology-focused credentials to be earned by Ohio employees.

The results from the April application period will be announced in the near future.

Visit TechCred.Ohio.gov to learn more!

Minority Business Assistance Center

The Minority Business Assistance Center offers a range of programs to help support your business. Classes include Advanced Email Marketing, Construction Opportunity Virtual Fair, Advanced Video Conferencing, Advanced SEO, and Certification Courses. Check out all their offerings at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-minority-business-assistance-center-18352481349>

Workforce Programs Coming Soon!!

Workforce is definitely the number one issue facing our companies, today. MCEDC is working on a number of programs to bring more workers to your doors so be sure to stay tuned!

We also want to thank the Medina Award Program for naming www.worklocal.net the winner of the 2021 Best of Medina Awards in the category of Employment Search Service.

Thank you to our Annual Premier Sponsors!

