

Ohio State University

Noble County Community Development

UPDATE

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Ohio State University Extension
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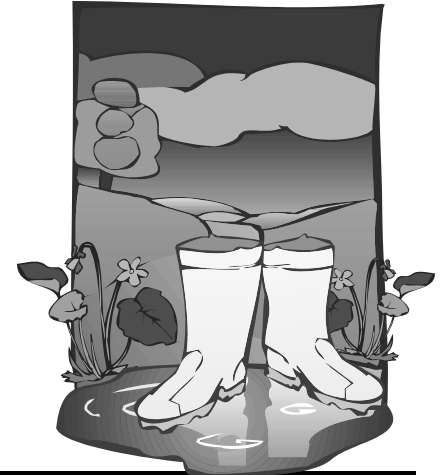


EDITOR'S RAMBLINGS

This issue has updates on a variety of programs and some new items to include. With the weather now getting nice, there seems to be an up tick in business growth and expansion in the region.

Best Regards,

Mike Lloyd
Extension Educator
Community Development



OU MBA STUDENTS HELPING NOBLE COUNTY BUSINESS

From March to May of each year teams of MBA students from Ohio University engage in a spirited competition. The students, working in teams of four to five, are working this year with small businesses in Athens, Meigs, Hocking, Perry, Morgan, Noble and Washington counties. The students work with the small businesses to tackle problems and issues facing the businesses. Each business may have a different need—one may need marketing assistance—another may need help developing business layout—while a third may need have issues with accounting or finance. The students focus on the desires of the firm and develop a comprehensive plan to assist.

The Food Center & Save-A-Lot are the fifth business to participate in the program from Noble County. Past Businesses include Braden Med Supply, Caldwell Savings and Loan, Whiskey Run Golf Course, and The Inn at Belle Valley. If you are interested in participating in the program in 2006, please give Mike Lloyd at the Extension office a call at 732-5681.

Inside This Issue:

Page 2

Business Growth In Noble County
Tax Reform in Ohio

Page 3

A Firm Foundation
House Calls

Page 4

EODA to Honor Noble Countian



BUSINESS GROWTH IN NOBLE COUNTY

Three major new projects are at various stages of development in the county.

The largest project will be bringing approximately 100 jobs to the former Greif Bros. facility in the Noble County Industrial Park. Magnum Magnetics, one of the nation's premier manufacturers of flexible magnets, will be moving a portion of their current Washington Co., Ohio facility to Noble Co in addition to hiring new associates. This project will be bringing in excess of \$7,000,000 in new investment to the county. Founded in 1992, Magnum is one of only three companies in the US producing flexible magnets. While the refrigerator magnet is the most often thought of type of flexible magnets, they are used in a variety of other purposes including promotional and advertising specialty products, fastening devices, signs and displays, assembly devices, nameplates, motors, toys and crafts.

International Converter will also be expanding at its Caldwell facility. ICI has been a leader in specialty laminations for a variety of foodservice and industrial uses since 1957. In addition to Caldwell, they operate facilities in Belpre, OH and Iuka, MS. ICI's last major expansion at its Caldwell facility was in 1995 when more than \$2,000,000 was invested in new construction and new equipment and machinery. That expansion also added over 40 new employees. ICI is working with the Noble County Development Office for Enterprise Zone assistance for a 2005 project that would add additional equipment and inventory in excess of \$3,000,000 and would retain the more than 100 current jobs at the Caldwell Industrial Park.

Finally, the county is continuing to work with Professional Service Group, a firm interested in locating a medical waste facility south of Caldwell. This new facility would use heat and pressure to treat common medical wastes which would then be land filled. The county has applied for \$352,000 from the new Ohio Industrial Site Improvement Fund to be used for infrastructure improvements at the site. This state investment would then leverage another \$1,500,000 investment in property improvements at the site. This new facility could create in excess of 50 new jobs for the community.

Our office has been delighted to work with each of these projects and looks forward to bringing them each to a successful conclusion. Together the projects represent approximately \$11,500,000 investment in the Noble County economy, the retention of 100 jobs and the creation of 150 jobs for the community.

TAX REFORM IN OHIO

Earlier this spring, Gov. Taft proposed sweeping changes in Ohio tax law. As with any proposal for tax reform, this one has its share of advocates and opponents.

Most analysts agree that the current Ohio tax system has a variety of problems in keeping our state competitive in trying to attract new business to the state and to retain the business we currently possess. An equally difficult problem is creating a system that is revenue neutral and does not severely penalize any existing taxing entity—most often mentioned here is the public school system.

For individual income tax payers, the Governor's has proposed a 21 % general cut in state income tax. The thrust of the business tax component would result in the elimination of the tangible personal property tax, inventory tax, and corporate franchise tax. These business taxes would be replaced with a commercial activities tax.

Realizing that many of you receiving this newsletter are in the business community, you might wish to check out the web site www.jobsforohio.com to view the tax calculator to see the direct effect it might have on your business.

A FIRM FOUNDATION

In January of this year it became official . . . Noble County now had a local charitable foundation.

After nearly a year of work, the Noble County Community Foundation (NCCF) came into existence as an affiliate of the Marietta Community Foundation. The advantage of operating as an affiliate of a larger foundation is the legal requirements of operating our local foundation can be met more economically and efficiently by cooperating with an existing foundation to provide these services. After looking at several of the existing foundations in the region, the local board agreed that working with the Marietta Foundation was an obvious choice.

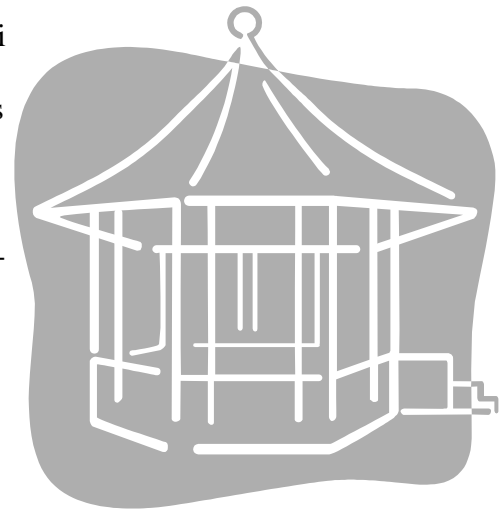
With the creation of a local foundation, individuals who currently make tax deductible contributions to groups outside the county, now have an option to keep the money closer to home to support activities in Noble Co. The NCCF has raised over \$6,500 in its first three months of existence, with the largest contribution coming as a result of a challenge grant from the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO). The FAO provided \$3,000 to the NCCF as long as the Noble Co. group found local funds to match the challenge dollar-for-dollar. With the support of local citizens, businesses, and banks; the challenge was met.

The NCCF has agreed to accept applications for a first round of funding until July 11, 2005. At that time the NCCF hopes to award one or more grants in the \$200 to \$500 range. Future rounds are scheduled for twice a year with applications due on the 10th of July and January, but ultimately the ability of the new foundation to make continuing grants to worthwhile groups within the community will depend on the ability to grow the endowment.

A wild range of giving options are available including annual contributions, gifts of property, insurance proceeds, memorials, scholarship funds and others.

Members of the board of directors include: Bill Brelsford, Kristi Close, Jeff Minosky, Andrea Hurst, Shawn Ray, Don Ullmann, Joy Flood, Judy McMullen, and Sharon Tanner. Judy McMullen serves as chairperson with Shawn Ray as Vice-Chair. Mike Lloyd is secretary.

Applications for funding can be obtained at the Noble County Extension Office. Tax deductible donations can be made to the Noble County Community Foundation, Attn: Kristi Close, P.O. Box 274, Peoples Bank, 415 Main St., Caldwell, OH 43724.



HOUSE CALLS

As part of our office's efforts to inform the business community of the availability of our two new small business revolving loan fund programs, Tracy Blackstone, an office assistant at the Noble County Extension Office is currently out in the community visiting with existing businesses in the county. Tracy will be bringing information on the CDBG Microloan and the RBEG Small Business loan programs. In addition, our office is working cooperatively with the Noble Co. Dept. of Jobs and Family Services (NCDJFS) and is conducting a short survey concerning the services currently offered by NCDJFS. Please welcome Tracy as she makes her rounds in the community.

EODA TO HONOR NOBLE COUNTIAN

Dave Cater, Director of the Noble County Tourism Program, will be an honored recipient of the "Excellence Award" offered by the Eastern Ohio Development Alliance at its 15th annual meeting to be held at the Carlisle Inn, Walnut Creek, OH (Holmes County) on Friday, April 29, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. The Excellence Award is given in three categories: large business, small business, and tourism. Dave's work in tourism marks the first time a Noble County person or business has won the award.

Speakers for this year's event will be Ohio Gov. Bob Taft and Anne B. Pope, Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission. You will find a registration form for the event in this issue of the newsletter.

This newsletter and other services provided by the Noble County Office of Ohio State University Extension are made possible due to a tax levy supported by Noble County Voters. The levy will supply support through 2007.

Ohio State University Extension
Noble County
150 Court House
Caldwell, OH 43754

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Noble County Community Development Update

EODA 15th Annual Meeting Registration

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

Number Attending: _____ @ \$25.00 Per-Person-Total Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to **EODA** and mail registration to: Ohio Regional Development Corp.

Attention: Jill McFarland

120 1/2 S. Fourth Street

Coshocton, Ohio 43812

Return Registration Form ASAP

Fax: (740) 622-8577

Phone: (740) 622-0529

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