



Findlay · Hancock County  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## JANUARY 2023 UPDATE

This document serves to provide a summary of activities undertaken by the Economic Development team during the month of January.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

#### Retention & Expansion |

- The Economic Development team attended the quarterly Tall Timbers Industrial Park meeting to discuss inflation, recruiting obstacles, and hybrid v remote v in-person work environments. The ED office also shared the Wage & Benefits Survey initiative being undertaken by the office – more details below.
- As discussed previously, the Economic Development office has partnered with Bowling Green State University's Center for Regional Development (CRD) to assess current wage rates, shift differentials, health benefits, leave benefits, and workforce challenges. The CRD has extensive experience in this type of data analytics. The survey will focus on manufacturing and logistics companies in Wood and Hancock Counties. The CRD will utilize Qualtrics to conduct the survey and will produce an in-depth report providing high-level overviews of the data and trends, as well as tables outlining the wage rate ranges for positions at participating companies. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SURVEY, PLEASE LET US KNOW BY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>**. Results will be shared with participants.

#### Attraction |

- Project Loop was submitted in January. The company is looking to establish an advanced recycling facility for Low Density Polyethylene (thermoplastic) and would hire 80 people and invest \$100 - \$200M over 5 years.
- JobsOhio and Regional Growth Partnership identified two sites in Hancock County they believe could be a good fit for Project Nugget. This project would include the construction of a solar panel ingot/wafer manufacturing facility.
- The ED team was approached by Regional Growth Partnership about a food preparation and distribution company referred to as Project Hat Trick. The company would invest \$145M and create 750 full-time positions. They are currently interested in two Hancock County properties and will be visiting Findlay in February.
- The ED office holds a land option on 140 acres at the northeast corner of I-75 and CR99. Due diligence work is currently underway including a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, Wetlands Delineation Survey, and Magnetometer Survey with the goal of becoming development-ready in the near term.

#### Workforce |

- The ED office is working with the Village of McComb on two projects. The first project would create a large residential development consisting of townhomes, apartments, and single family residences. The other project involves a private investor looking to repurpose a legacy structure into ground-level retail with second-level residential units. This project would potentially qualify for financing assistance via the Hancock County Revolving Loan Fund. Adding residential capacity in the Hancock County villages ties directly to a key initiative in workforce development.

- Raise the Bar offers several programs focused on workforce training and leadership development that area companies can take advantage of. If your company is interested in the [Manufacturing Apprenticeship Program](#) or the [Management Leadership Development Program](#), we encourage you to reach out.

### Community Planning |

- The Economic Development team met with Regional Growth Partnership and the Ohio Department of Transportation District 1 to begin an exploratory discussion about the benefits of establishing a Transportation Improvement District (TID) in Hancock County. A TID district is a special-purpose district created for the purpose of coordinating and financing transportation infrastructure improvement particularly road construction projects.

### Downtown |

- [Project Emerson](#): Economic Development is assisting the developer of the Argyle property to attract a destination retailer in the Specialty Foods and Housewares space. With the advent of increased downtown residential living, such a business would add catalytic support to this sector.

### Small Business |

- Throughout the month of January, the ED team met with several individuals interested in the start-up of a small business. As a reminder, ED supports small business with planning resources from concept to commercialization.
- **50 Work from Home Jobs That Pay as Much or More than Average Salary.** If you're tired of driving to an office and would love to work at home, there are plenty of high-quality full-time work-from-home jobs for you. Read the article [here](#).

### Other |

- Economic Development presented its year-end business recap at the Chamber of Commerce's Fresh Brewed Business meeting, as well as Premier Bank's annual economic outlook forum.

### Additional Reading |

- **2023 Ohio Manufacturing Counts.** OMA's latest state and federal data providing a comprehensive look at the economic impact of manufacturing in Ohio. Read the article [here](#).
- **How AI Bolsters Global Supply Chains.** Read the article [here](#).