



101 North Main Street
Room 102
Celina, OH 45822

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CELINA, OH
PERMIT NO. 47



NEW LOOK AT GRAND LAKE INDUSTRIAL PARK



EXTERIOR OF CELINA MOVING & STORAGE



INTERIOR OF CELINA MOVING & STORAGE

loading dock accessible from three sides and an on-site laundry and shower facilities for the professional van operators.

The office was designed for efficiency and the layout will support this goal by grouping various departments together such as Administration, Accounting, Operations, Sales, Customer Service Representatives, and Dispatch. A large conference room is included for company meetings. For the benefit of the employees, a fitness center will be available on-site for their use.

Anyone who has driven along State Route 29 East of Celina has noticed some very noticeable changes at the Grand Lake Industrial Park. Two building/expansion projects have been ongoing throughout this summer and fall.

Celina Moving and Storage, Inc. has been constructing a new office and storage warehouse at 8000 Havemann Road. This project started in late summer and is in its final stages. The construction project includes a climate controlled storage warehouse of over 60,000 square feet and over 6,500 square feet of office space.

The warehouse will be available to store household goods, commercial products, office equipment, industrial equipment, recreation vehicles, and also includes a designated secured area for document and record storage. Special features include an indoor

Celina Moving and Storage, Inc. is one of the more than 500 Atlas Van Lines, Inc. agents in the United States and Canada. It is a relocation company that specializes in moving household goods, office furniture and equipment, industrial equipment, and commercial products on a local, national and international level. They service many groups including individuals, families, businesses, government, and military.

This year, Celina Moving and Storage, Inc. has had many reasons for celebration in addition to their construction project. They celebrated their 50th year in business and were honored with a 50 year service plaque at the Atlas annual convention in October. Also at the convention, the company received the highest Atlas award for the sixth year in a row, the Milton M. Hill Quality Award, one

continued on page 2

Happy Holidays



EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Unemployment rate for Mercer County for the month of October, 2010:

October 2010	7.1%
September 2010	6.9%
October 2010	8.5%
Labor Force	24,100
Employment	22,400
Unemployment	1,700

Rates for surrounding Counties:

Auglaize County	8.9%
Darke County	9.5%
Shelby County	11.1%
Van Wert County	11.2%
Rate for State of Ohio	9.5%

THE RLF PORTFOLIO OF MERCER COUNTY

Funds On Hand	\$443,663
Available Funds to Lend	\$269,663
Total # of Loans	27
Number of Jobs Created	1363

If you know anyone interested in the RLF Program, please contact Mercer County Community Development at: 419.586.4209 or 419-586-2963

101 N. Main St.,
Room 102
Celina, Ohio 45822
419.586.4209 • 419.586.2963
Fax: 419.586.1714
Jared.ebbing@mercercountyohio.org

Jared C. Ebbing, P.E.
Community/Economic Development Director

Commissioners:
Jerry Laffin, Chairman
Bob Nuding, Vice Chairman
John Bruns, Member

WATCH FOR NEWS AND UPDATES
ON OUR WEBPAGE:
WWW.MERCERCOUNTYCONNECT.COM
AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:
MERCER CONNECT

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Look at Grand Lake	1-2
Grand Lake Restoration	2
Breakfast Forum Held	3
Celina Tent's 5th Annual Expo	3
Pepsi Refresh Project Grants	3
RFL & Employment Statistics	4

Together, we can...

BREAKFAST FORUM HELD

NEW LOOK AT GRAND LAKE INDUSTRIAL PARK CONTINUED...

of the transportation industry's most distinguished performance awards. This year the company performed double the amount of moves it performed the prior year and was able to add staff. In addition, this year they expanded to include an office and warehouse in Belleville, Texas.

The second expansion project at the industrial park involves Versa Pak, Ltd. The company was founded in 1986 at 400 South Ash Street, Celina. In 2000 it was purchased by the present owners, Ken Gerlach and Vic Post, who moved the business to the modern facility they constructed at their present location in the Grand Lake Industrial Park in Celina. This made it possible to expand their company's capabilities and locate the warehouse under one roof.

Versa Pak Ltd. is a full gauge blown film manufacturer of versatile plastic packaging for food and other consumer industries. The company is a leading converter of raw materials into flexible packaging of different types and sized bags, rolls, sheeting, tubing and shrink bundling film. Bags range in size from 4" x 4" to 100" x 500", thicknesses from .0005 to .010 mil. Products come in a wide variety of colors and prints.

Versa Pak's newest addition to their building enhances their product capabilities and ensures timely deliveries on custom

made and blanket purchased items. Versa Pak always strives to meet their customers packaging needs.

As a result of the activity at the Grand Lake Industrial Park, an Ohio Department of Development 629 Grant was awarded. The \$200,000 Grant was utilized to improve Havemann Road, construct Braun Drive, and extend utilities throughout the park.



VERSA PAK, LTD. - 500 STAAGER ROAD, CELINA

On October 21, 2010 Mercer County Community Development hosted a business breakfast forum in Dicke Hall located at the Wright State Lake Campus. KCI of Ohio graciously provided our guest speaker, Storm Cunningham. He is the CEO of Revitaliz, LLC in Washington, DC and the founder of the Revitalization Institute and the author of two books, *The Restoration Economy* and *reWealth*.



STORM CUNNINGHAM

Over 100 business and community leaders attended the forum including many from Van Wert and Auglaize Counties along with local and state government officials. These breakfasts help us keep the channels of communication open with the leaders of Mercer County and our neighboring communities, and in return, help form regional marketing strategies.

Mr. Cunningham emphasized the importance of maintaining and utilizing what communities have in order to sustain and enhance economic development. One hundred years ago Teddy Roosevelt said, "The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation - increased in value." As resources become depleted and/or deteriorated, our generation's economic growth is affected. "Pain triggers ideas" stated Mr.



Cunningham. "We have three choices to make: restore, relocate, or recede. It isn't solely about natural resource restoration; it is also about things like real estate values, restoration of our buildings, infrastructure, agriculture, and historic properties, as they play a role in rebuilding and sustaining our economies.

We want to thank Mr. Cunningham for a very enlightening presentation, and Wright State University Lake Campus and KCI for their help in making this a successful breakfast.

Photos courtesy of Ivan Knapp

GRAND LAKE RESTORATION REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



On October 20th, The Local Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Commission gave a report to the community. This presentation was held at Wright State University Lake Campus, Dicke Hall.

Dr. Thomas Knapke welcomed the public and gave those in attendance an overview of the restoration activities and introduced members of the Commission, state contacts, and vendors who had displays around the room.

Several Commission members spoke with great enthusiasm. Brian Miller, Asst. Park Manager relayed to those in attendance that he will be furnished with a third suction dredger and will keep all three dredgers busy as soon as ice breaks in the spring. Milt Miller, also of the Lake Development Commission stated that to date, a total of \$2,683,847 in grants, pledges, and donations has been raised. Weekly testing and data collection is being performed by Wright State University Lake Campus, along with assistance of Ohio Northern, University of Dayton, Bowling Green and Heidelberg.

Julie Miller, Director of the Business Enterprise Center at Wright State Lake Campus discussed marketing efforts including

a Guest Waiter night at Bella's, and plans to utilize social media to establish a formal district.

Jared Ebbing, introduced Storm Cunningham, CEO of the Resolution Fund LLC. (See article on Breakfast Forum) He stated that "without realizing it, the problems with the lake may be providing an opportunity to become another "Silicon Valley" for restoration activities. "The problems with the lake can become opportunities with the world interested in how to solve it; the area already has a head start."



ONE OF MANY BOOTHS AT THE PRESENTATION

CELINA TENT'S 5TH ANNUAL EXPO



OPEN HOUSE

Celina Tent Inc., a manufacturer of vinyl fabric structures, tents, and event accessories held their 5th annual Expo Wednesday September 29th, 2010. The event took place at the Celina Tent manufacturing complex at 5373 SR 29, Celina, OH 45822.

Over 80 companies and guests attended the 5th annual Expo. The Expo featured facility tours, product demonstrations, training seminars, and many hands on activities. The Expo allowed their customers the chance to view new/ existing event and tent rental products, learn about changes and opportunities in the event rental industry, and network with their peers. Celina Tent also provided door prizes, product discounts, and tent specials for customers and registered guests.

PEPSI REFRESH PROJECT GRANTS

Vote for the most refreshing ideas to win Pepsi Refresh Project grants for the planet.

OUR IDEA:

Create a water cleansing "Treatment Train" into Grand Lake St. Marys Grand Lake Restoration Commission - Mercer County Civic Foundation

OUR GOALS:

- To restore the health of Grand Lake St. Marys
- To find and purchase technology that will remove phosphorus
- To dredge silt from the lake bottom creating islands
- To return a \$200m tourism industry to the region



Go to: www.refresheverything.com/savegrandlakestmarys

And click for our idea listed above

Or vote by texting: 104816 to Pepsi (73774)

Tell your friends, family and co-workers to vote!