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have a great & safe summer!



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Bob Nuding, Chairman
John Bruns, Vice Chairman
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FORT RECOVERY ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

The Fort Recovery Chamber of Commerce held their 31st Annual "Citizen of the Year - Hall of Fame" Awards Banquet on March 13, 2011. Various award winners were honored at the banquet held at the Fort Recovery Elementary/Middle School Auditoria.

The 2010 "Citizen of the Year" was awarded to Nick Dues. Nick has been active for many years with the Fort Recovery Ambassador Club, serving as president for nine years, along with being a member and officer of the Southwest Mercer Fire Department for the past seven years. Mr. Dues has assisted with many other activities and events as a member of the Fort Recovery Lions Club, Sons of the American Legion and with the local FFA.

Steve Franke and Jerry Kaup were honored as the "Hall of Fame" award recipients for 2010. The Chamber of Commerce recognized their many outstanding contributions and past services to the Fort Recovery community.

Mayor Roger Broerman presented the 17th Annual "Outstanding Community Service Award", to the Fort Recovery American Legion Post #345 for the organization's continued support of the community through scholarships, flag donations and other various projects and programs. Also honored at the banquet were the annual "Home Beautification" award winners, including Al & Maggie Warnock for Most Improved Property; Matt & Mandy Wendel for Most Improved Dwelling; and Eagle Point Park — Cheeseman Family — SR 119 for Best Community Improvement. The Home Beautification Awards were sponsored by Natures Green Nursery, Auction America & Realty and Fort Recovery Lumber Company.

The Chamber of Commerce Scholarship was awarded to Fort Recovery High School senior Andrea Sutter, daughter of Jerry & Michelle Sutter.



NICK DUES - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



JERRY KAUP - HALL OF FAME



STEVE FRANKE - HALL OF FAME

ANOTHER REVOLVING LOAN PAY OFF

Tuway American Group paid off their latest revolving loan in January, 2011. The loan of \$117,000 was for Machinery and Equipment purchased in 2005. This was the third successful loan payoff the company has had with Mercer County. Tuway American Group is a woman-owned, family operated business located at 191 East Pearl Street, Rockford. They manufacture industrial dust and wet mops, carpet bonnets and cleaning accessories. The company employs 34 people and serves other companies nationally and internationally.



TUWAY AMERICAN GROUP

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

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Together, we can...



EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Unemployment rate for Mercer County for the month of May 2011:

May 2011	5.9%
April 2011	5.8%
May 2010	7.2%
Labor Force	25,300
Employment	23,800
Unemployment	1,500

Rates for surrounding counties:

Auglaize County	7.6%
Darke County	9.1%
Shelby County	9.3%
Van Wert County	9.1%

THE RLF PORTFOLIO OF MERCER COUNTY

Funds on Hand.....	\$445,212.76
Available Funds to Lend..	\$194,612.76
Total # of Loans	26
Number of Jobs Created	1,363

If you know anyone interested in the RLF Program, please contact Mercer County Community Development at: 419.586.4209 or 419.586.2963

ROCKFORD COMMUNITY NEWS



06/19/2011

Splash Pad: The Village of Rockford has installed a new Splash Pad to fill the void of not having a community pool. The old pool was built approximately 40 years ago and was in dire need of extensive repair which was not feasible; and therefore was demolished. The Rockford Area Development Corporation raised approximately \$76,000 through donations and fund-raising events to make the project possible. The Splash

Pad Committee consisted of Nancy Leighner, Sue Barna, Betty Belna, Bill Miller, Tom Rogers, Marty Lentz, and Barb Pedroza.

accepted for the operating expenses and the enhancement of the area such as shrubs and benches needed. Parkway School District students were asked for suggestions for naming the Splash Pad. Emily Gehle and Claire Langenkamp won the contest with the name "Shanes' Splish Splash Pad". The Ribbon Cutting was Sunday, June 19, at 1:00 p.m., followed by cookies, punch and a balloon launch. Shanes' Splish Splash Pad was very busy during the annual Rockford Community Days and is sure to provide many hours of enjoyment for years to come!

Waterline Extension: On June 16th the Village of Rockford accepted bids for the Waterline Improvements project. Approximately 15,500 lineal feet of waterlines will be replaced throughout the village; replacing old, deteriorating lines. The various waterlines range from 4-inches to 12-inches in diameter. With an engineer's estimate of \$1.1 million, Shinn Bros., Inc. was the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$849,000. The project is funded by a \$390,000 Water and Sewer Community Development Block Grant and a low-interest loan through Ohio Water Development Authority. Construction should be completed about this time next year.

The village is providing the water allotment and there is no charge for its daily use. The splash pad board is considering renting the pad out for special occasions. Donations are continually being

accepted for the operating expenses and the enhancement of the area such as shrubs and benches needed.



06/19



06/19/2011

I would like to thank all the businesses that took time out of their busy schedules to meet with me to complete the Business Surveys this spring. Although time would not permit to meet with all the area businesses, I feel I collected a good representation of the Mercer County companies by meeting with over 70 local industries. If you were not surveyed and would like to meet with me, please feel free to call and set up an appointment. I would be happy to discuss any concerns or ideas you may have. Together, we can continue to make Mercer County a great place to work and live.

Jared



SPRING BREAKFAST FORUM

Mercer County Community Development hosted the Spring Breakfast Forum Tuesday, April 26, 2011 at Romer's Banquet Facility in Celina. Since technology has evolved so much in recent years, the local business professionals were invited to the Spring Breakfast Forum to witness the latest technologies being used by the youth today. Various schools were in attendance, including the Celina and Ft. Recovery students giving the presentations.



BETSY CRITES,
CELINA TECHNOLOGY
INSTRUCTOR

Celina School's technology integration coach, Betsy Crites, demonstrated various applications on the Smart Board. She noted that the Celina School District has 480 mobile learning devices and 200 Smart Boards in use; with more expected in the future. Matt Miller, Superintendent of Celina City Schools, said the integration of technology has increased student engagement and actually decreased discipline problems. A group of Celina students gave an interesting presentation on the various technology devices and applications they use both socially and academically. Some of the devices include cell phones, smart phones, iPads, netbooks, and laptops; and each device has its own menu of applications. The group held the attention of the 100+ crowd and admitted they don't check e-mail as often as they check their facebook account. Various groups and clubs use different social networks to stay in



MATT MILLER
SUPERINTENDENT,
CELINA CITY SCHOOLS

touch and publish meetings, projects due, etc. The Celina students predicted 90 percent of students have cell phones and half of those are equipped with internet service.

Two groups of Ft. Recovery students demonstrated projects they are engineering to assist local businesses. The groups are part of a pre-engineering program called Project Lead the Way. The first group designed a chain drive lift to pick up and dump heavy barrels used by CNC machines on the Fort Recovery Industries production floor. The second group designed a structure to pick up and open heavy bundles at JR Manufacturing, which would only require one employee's time instead of two and to improve safety in the workplace. These projects will be constructed or have begun construction by the end of May. Both groups did an excellent job describing the obstacles they had to overcome and the multitude of steps required to complete each task. Ft. Recovery High School Principal, Jeff Hobbs, commended the business community and appreciates their support with these learning activities.

The purpose of the Breakfast Forum was to coordinate the students with the business/industry world and hopefully keep them connected to Mercer County, so they stay or return to the area and fill the many wonderful career opportunities that are available here locally.

Area students were encouraged to complete the short survey on www.mercercountyconnect.com under "Connect With Us" tab: "When the Time is Right, Opportunity Won't Wait..." to stay connected with our local area businesses.

The following banks sponsored the event and the Community Development Department would like to thank them for their support: The St. Henry Bank, Citizens National Bank, First Financial Bank, The Peoples Bank Co., Second National Bank, and Mercer Savings Bank.



STUDENTS FROM FORT RECOVERY
HIGH SCHOOL



STUDENTS FROM CELINA HIGH SCHOOL

