



101 North Main Street  
Room 102  
Celina, OH 45822

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

*Fall Greetings*



**EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**  
Unemployment rate for Mercer County for the month of April, 2010:

July 2010	7.7%
June 2010	7.9%
July 2009	9.3%
Labor Force	24,600
Employment	22,700
Unemployment	1,900

Rates for surrounding Counties:

Auglaize County	9.4%
Darke County	10.1%
Shelby County	11.9%
Van Wert County	12.1%
Rate for State of Ohio	10.3%

**THE RLF PORTFOLIO OF MERCER COUNTY**

Funds On Hand	\$459,367
Available Funds to Lend	\$270,416
Total # of Loans	28
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



October, 2010  
Volume 1, Issue 5

## BECKY MACWHINNEY NEW DIRECTOR

Becky MacWhinney has been named Director of The Agricultural and Industrial Heritage Center. She previously served seven years as the Director of Armstrong Air and Space Museum in Wapakoneta, Ohio. Ms. MacWhinney has a BS in Middle Childhood Education and a MS in Classroom Education from Wright State University.

will change from time to time but the general theme of the displays will remain the same. The Heritage Center will recognize and pay tribute to the people who came before us. The hard working individuals who immigrated to the area were quick to pass on their work ethic to those who followed in their footsteps. Numerous

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

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



The Agricultural and Industrial Heritage Center's ultimate goal is to house a museum in the former office section of the New Idea Facility, 123 W. Sycamore Street, Coldwater. The museum will preserve and interpret artifacts that honor our agricultural and industrial heritage in West Central Ohio. After New Idea left Coldwater and it was purchased by Bruns Building & Development Corporation, they began dividing the space according to the needs of the smaller companies that wanted to lease parts of the complex. Bob Bruns also saw the need for a portion of the building to remain as a tribute and reminder of the heritage created locally as a result of what had been accomplished in times past.



**New Super Bike Has Built-in Radio**

VINTAGE HUFFY ADVERTISEMENT

factories in this area produced products that were far superior to their competition, and soon created a high demand from coast to coast. New Idea, Mersman Tables, Pet Milk, Huffy Bicycles and Buckeye Apparel lead a distinguished list of innovative companies that are to be honored at the Heritage Center.



FARM MECHANICS MAGAZINE FEATURING NEW IDEA SPREADER

The Heritage Center is an opportunity to recognize our predecessors that made sacrifices, and it gives us the opportunity to share the community evolution through the generations. The Board of Directors would like to invite anyone to join their organization and welcome any input you may have to give. Feel free to call 567-644-2173 or email: aihc@aiheritagecenter.org to find out how you can become a volunteer or member. Your historical materials and contributions are welcome.



OLD NEW IDEA HORSE-DRAWN SPREADER

Talks began in late summer 2007 and a Board of Directors was formed. It is the intention of the board to highlight 2 - 3 companies from this area on a continual rotation. The companies

WATCH FOR NEWS AND UPDATES  
ON OUR WEBPAGE:  
[WWW.MERCERCOUNTYCONNECT.COM](http://WWW.MERCERCOUNTYCONNECT.COM)  
AND ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:  
MERCER CONNECT

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*Together, we can...*

## 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS



J & M Manufacturing recently celebrated 50 years in the farm equipment business at an open house with 800 people in attendance. J & M is located at 284 Railroad Street in Fort Recovery and employs 150 people. The company started up 50 years ago when two

brothers, Maurice and Jerome Greishop, began producing hopper wagons and grain elevators. Today the company builds

gravity flow boxes, wagons, grain carts, soil conditioners, grain tank extensions; and performs sheet metal fabricating and assembling.

Over the years, the plant has expanded to three buildings totaling 50,000 square feet of floor space, each with a total of five acres under roof, and new offices are now being constructed. The business boasts the latest, hi-tech machinery that enables them to produce up to 30 grain carts from start to finish in one day and plans to introduce a new product line in 2011. J & M Manufacturing holds numerous patents and now sells to dealers throughout the United States and abroad.

## BREAKFAST SCHEDULED



STORM  
CUNNINGHAM

MercerCountyCommunityDevelopment is hosting a business breakfast forum on October 21, 2010, at Wright State University Lake Campus. The event will be held in the Dicke Hall and doors will open at 7:15 a.m. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

Our guest speaker is Mr. Storm Cunningham who authored *The Restoration Economy and reWealth*. He is the CEO of Resolution Fund, LLC,

a globally focused firm that helps communities revitalize their economy, environment, and quality of life. Drawing upon his extensive experience in economic development and integrated revitalization, Mr. Cunningham provides a clear explanation of the global shift that is driving the multitrillion-dollar market for products and services that revitalize cities and restore our natural resources.

Call Mercer County Community Development at 419-586-4209 for more information.

## FUNDING APPROVED

On July 28 Mercer County was notified by Mr. Tim Leasure of the Ohio Department of Development stating that grant funds were approved through the CDBG Water and Sewer Program for the Villages of Mendon and Rockford.

The Village of Mendon will receive a \$482,000 grant to replace approximately 19,650 feet of waterline. The estimated total cost of the project is \$1,210,000 and will benefit 292 households. The project consists of the installation of 19,650 linear feet of PVC waterline, 55 water valves, 30 fire hydrants, 215 copper connections to improve the seriously deteriorating central water distribution system. They will also repair roadway

surface and landscaping as needed.

The Village of Rockford will receive a \$390,000 grant to replace approximately 11,500 feet of waterline. The estimated total cost of the project is \$985,000 and will benefit 489 households. The project consists of the installation of 11,500 linear feet of PVC waterline, 40 water valves, 25 fire hydrants, 150 water service laterals and repair roadway surface and landscaping as needed.

The Water and Sanitary Sewer Program helps local governments maintain, improve, and expand water and sanitary sewer systems.

## MAIN STREET RECONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN CELINA

As the majority of you have noticed there are many changes happening in the City of Celina. Work began on the Main Street reconstruction on August 11, which is a major part of the 3.27 million dollar Downtown Revitalization project in Celina. The reconstruction of Main Street will include rebuilding the street and installation of new curbs and sidewalks, as well as adding decorative street lighting and new traffic lights. Work will be done three blocks at a time: Fulton Street to Fayette Street from August through November 5; Fayette Street to Lake Shore drive will start in March 2011.

Many building owners on Main Street are making improvements to their facades. Others, such as the building which houses The Scrapbook Paradise, have completed the work on their store fronts. Plans also call for underground conduits for electrical lines and traffic lights. The waterlines on Main Street have already been replaced and numerous alleys have been repaved this summer. Keep updated on the progress by checking our website: [www.mercercountyconnect.com](http://www.mercercountyconnect.com).



## BUSINESS TO BUSINESS EXPO

The Celina-Mercer County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring their Business to Business Expo on Thursday, October 14, 2010. The event is being held at Romer's Catering and Entertainment Facility in Celina, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event is free for Celina Mercer County Chamber members and open to the public for a \$30 booth fee. Romer's will be providing lunch, snacks, and drinks.

Take the opportunity to achieve:

- Networking opportunities to showcase your products and service
- Networking opportunities to find out what other local businesses have to offer
- Attend free seminars (marketing, cost cutting measures, sales, etc.)

For further details or to reserve your booth contact:

Celina Mercer County Chamber of Commerce  
226 North Main Street Celina, Ohio 45822  
Phone: 419-586-2219  
Fax: 419-596-8645  
E-mail: [info@celinamercer.com](mailto:info@celinamercer.com)

