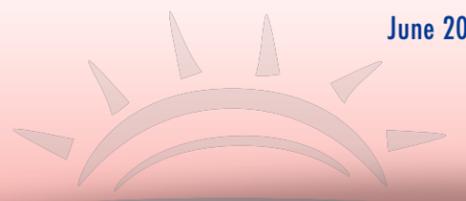




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Room 102
Celina, OH 45822

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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:
John Bruns, Chairman
Rick Muhlenkamp, Vice Chairman
Jerry Laffin, Member



GRAND OPENING

Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. held the Grand Opening of their new distribution center on June 4th at their new location on Harris Road. The event was very well attended by state and local officials, those involved with the construction and funding of the facility, and various Ferguson management and staff. Invited guests watched a video describing the founders and a brief history of Ferguson. Governor John Kasich addressed the large crowd after a few words from Jared Ebbing of Mercer County, and Mark Hager and David Simons both of Ferguson. The official Ribbon Cutting took place before tours of the 350,000 square foot facility were conducted. Mercer County welcomes Ferguson Enterprises to the Mercer County community and we look forward to working with them for many years to come.

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



EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS
Unemployment rate for Mercer County for the month of April, 2014:

April, 2014.....	3.0%
March, 2014	3.7%
April, 2013.....	4.2%
Labor Force.....	24,500
Employment	23,800
Unemployment	700

Rates for surrounding counties:

Auglaize County	3.6%
Darke County	4.7%
Shelby County	4.3%
Van Wert County.....	4.6%

THE RLF PORTFOLIO OF MERCER COUNTY

Funds on Hand.....	\$242,000.00
Available Funds to Lend ..	\$142,000.00
Total # of Loans	33
Number of Jobs Created	1,477

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

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Together, we can...



DAYTON DEVELOPMENT COALITION ROUNDTABLE

The Dayton Development Coalition (DDC) along with the Mercer & Darke County Economic Development offices sponsored a Roundtable on February 7, 2014. The event was held in the cozy banquet room overlooking a beautiful frozen setting at the Stillwater Valley Golf Club in Versailles. Mercer and Darke County public officials, village administrators, and mayors were in attendance. The DDC members gave a presentation on the Program Changes

in JobsOhio, DDC's 2014 Retention & Expansion Strategy, and other Economic Development Initiatives in the Region. Marc Saluk, ED Director for Darke County and Jared Ebbing, ED Director of Mercer County also addressed the crowd. This is just one example of the many efforts to keep the regional partners informed and current.



SPRING BREAKFAST

More than 200 local officials, business leaders, and students from Mercer, Auglaize and Darke Counties attended the Annual Spring Breakfast Forum, held at the Romer's Banquet Facility on Wednesday, April 2.

The breakfast was held to help make the public aware of the current career-based experiences that students have available to them today. Business representatives and students listened while Ft. Recovery HS Principal, Jeff Hobbs, held a discussion with a panel of four students going into different career paths. Each had a unique story of how they decided on their career and what educational and real-world tools they were using to help them excel in that field. They each shared an interesting story of work experiences, job shadowing, and guidance from local companies. The students included Becky Brockman, Jacqui Kremer, Courtney Gladdish, and Reece Grieshop.

Janet Nelson of Tri Star's Med Prep program and Don Berry of Career Based Intervention also discussed with two of their students how they chose their careers. Although Ali Overly (med-prep student) has decided to pursue a medical degree at traditional college, Hayden Abels is actively training for a career at Minster Machine.

Finally, Jack Buschur of Buschur Electric in Minster discussed a new organization that was formed to help employers find the youth seeking careers in their trade. The organization is called Auglaize/Mercer Business-Education (AMBE) Alliance. The group is looking for pledges from area businesses to fund a new, full-time outreach coordinator. The Outreach Coordinator would work with the businesses and schools to ensure EVERY student has an opportunity for career-based influence on their future. If you are interested in contributing to this very important position, please contact Jack Buschur at jackb@buschurelectric.com. In conjunction with Hometown Opportunity, we feel businesses will benefit greatly by having an Outreach Coordinator working directly between our local businesses and schools on this matter.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following businesses for paying off their RLF loans over the past couple months!



Congratulations to Celina Insurance Group celebrating their 100th Anniversary!

