

In This Issue

[City of Gahanna on May Ballot to Reform Income Tax Structure \(Issue #4\)](#)

[Creekside Owners Finishing Housing Units as More Show Interest in Moving In](#)

[Mezzo & Crazy Goat Coffee Leave Gahanna](#)

[Creekside Becoming a Development Catalyst in Gahanna](#)

[Big News for the Columbus Region](#)

[Employment, Education and Poverty](#)

[Program to Help Hispanic Businesses](#)

[Ohio Vacant Facilities Fund](#)

[Columbus 2020 Update](#)

[Columbus Business First News](#)

[U.S. Small Business Administration News](#)

[Upcoming Events!](#)

[Tech-Tip of the Month](#)

[Resources & Information](#)

Local Development News



[City of Gahanna on May Ballot to Reform Income](#)



OJT Workforce Training Grant - ODJFS/COWIC

On-the-Job Training Program (OJT) is a federally funded program that helps employers hire and train laid-off workers for full-time, long term employment.

Through OJT programs, employers like you may be reimbursed up to 90 percent of the wages earned by eligible new trainees while they learn the job. This funding compensates you for training workers in skills they need to help your business thrive.

- * Hands on training done your way
- * An investment in your company
- * Fast turn-around, minimal paperwork
- * Funds available through June 30, 2013

Full story [here!](#)

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SMASHED FRESH. SERVED DELICIOUS.

Smashburger Opens First Central Ohio Restaurant in Gahanna

The City of Gahanna welcomes franchisee Drew Hansen as the doors to Central Ohio's first Smashburger opened at the Commons at Clark Hall. Located at 109 North Hamilton Road, Smashburger is fast becoming every city's favorite place for burgers.

Full story [here!](#)

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Tax Structure (Issue #4)

What?

The City of Gahanna will be on the May 7 ballot to reform the local income tax structure. The reform proposal has two parts: 1.) to increase the local income tax rate from 1.5 to 2.5 percent [this rate hasn't changed since 1977]. 2.) to increase the credit Gahanna residents receive for taxes paid to another municipality from 83.3 to 100 percent.

Why?

The City of Gahanna has been making reductions since 2007 due to the recession. Major cuts in state and federal funding have negatively impacted the City's revenue and Gahanna is facing an \$8 million deficit starting in 2014. Additional revenue is needed to sustain current City service levels and to invest in community infrastructure.

Full story [here!](#)



Creekside Owners Finishing Housing Units as More Show Interest in Moving In

Strathmore Development Co. has wasted little time with its Creekside makeover, promising to complete the original mixed-use vision for the project by building out its residential units and solidifying its commercial base.

The residential portion of the project was never finished by the original developers, but is expected to be completed, for the first time in the project's almost six-year life, by May.

Strathmore President Scott Chappelle said when they took over the property, only 30 percent of the residential space was built out. That figure is at 80 percent now.

Full story [here!](#)

Mezzo and Crazy Goat Coffee leave Gahanna

Italian food and coffee aren't going away at Creekside, but the businesses that served them have made an exit.

Strathmore Development Co. announced that it acquired the leasehold interests of Mezzo restaurant and Crazy Goat Coffee and has recruited new operators.

"This is a positive deal for everybody," Strathmore President Scott Chappelle said. "Both were successful businesses."

Full story [here!](#)

Creekside's Coffee Shop Quickly Transitions to New Owners



Coffee has continued to flow at Creekside without a hitch. Strathmore Development Co., owners of the Gahanna development, talked about changes at the project, including swapping out the Crazy Goat Coffee shop for the new Three Creeks Coffee Roasters, a change that came very quickly.

"It was a very smooth transition," Three Creeks owner Lisa Brown said. Located at 101 Mill Street, Suite 106, the shop will have the normal array of specialty coffees but also prides itself on its knowledge.

Full story [here!](#)

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The City of Gahanna welcomes LWG Consulting, a global leader in forensic engineering & recovery solutions to our community.

Located at 845-H Claycraft Road, LWG provides cause & origin, failure analysis, fire and explosion investigations, accident reconstruction, damage evaluations and equipment restoration services following disasters of all kinds.

Technical Project Manager, Christopher Powell, can be reached at (614) 372-1642. You can also visit their website www.lwgconsulting.com for more details.



Calling Small Business Exporters - Tell Us Your Story

Are you a small business exporter? If you have a success story to tell about the goods or services you sell around the world and have used a federal government program or assistance to get there, the U.S. SBA & Visa Inc. are cosponsoring the "2013 SBA-Visa Export Video Contest" where your company will have the chance to win up to \$10,000 just by sharing your story with other small business exporters.

Full story [here!](#)

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Creekside Becoming a Development Catalyst in Gahanna

It took longer than expected, but Creekside in Gahanna seems to be rounding into shape. Change has been rapid since Strathmore Development Co. grabbed the reins to the debt-saddled project last June for a fraction of its construction cost.

The mix of restaurants and retailers is firming up. There is a waiting list for housing under construction and development is popping up nearby. Strathmore is closing in on acquiring a car wash across the street from the development, and a 6,000-square-foot office building is being renovated south of Creekside.

Full story [here!](#)

Regional Development News

Big News For The Columbus Region

Big news has been received from Site Selection magazine. The Columbus Region, with 81 new and expanded facilities in 2012, has ranked 10th on Site Selection's annual list of top regions and states for corporate facility location.

In state rankings, Ohio took the No. 2 spot. This is a powerful reminder that we have a diverse, competitive economy and a host of innovative companies within the Columbus Region. We should all be proud of the collaboration that has driven our success.

Full story [here!](#)

Employment, Education and Poverty

Economically, the Columbus Region is fortunate to be gaining ground. Ohio is ranked No. 6 for job creation nationally and No. 1 in the Midwest, and since January 2010, the Columbus Region alone has gained an estimated 45,000 net new jobs.

Our ability to act through public-private partnerships has made

Small Business Learning Center: Training, Tools and Answers

Owning a small business can be a fulfilling endeavor, but as you probably already know or are just finding out - it requires that you wear many hats. This of course leaves you with little time to take a deep dive into the many aspects of starting and growing a business.

But what if you had access to a small business classroom that provided informed, accurate and always-available access to the advice and guidance you need?

Welcome to the SBA Small Business Learning Center.

Full story [here!](#)

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Dispelling Myths About the Affordable Care Act

As a business owner, it can be difficult to understand how the Affordable Care Act can affect your business. So to help clarify the myths versus facts, SBA is launching a new blog series called "Myth vs. Fact: The Affordable Care Act and Small Business."

Full story [here!](#)

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3 Things Small Businesses Should Know About the Affordable Care Act

Are you wondering how the health care reform law (the Affordable Care Act) will impact your business? SBA is launching a new series to explain the basics of the law, what you need to do to comply, and how your business can benefit from new incentives. To get started, we are highlighting three big things every small business owner should know about the Affordable Care Act.

Full story [here!](#)

Upcoming Events!



March OGCP Monthly Meeting

When: Wednesday, March 13, 8:15am to 9:00am

Where: Olde Gahanna Sanctuary
82 N. High Street, Gahanna

For more details [go to http://oldegahanna.com](http://oldegahanna.com)

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an incredible difference and will help sustain our long-term economic development efforts.

Full story [here!](#)

Program to Help Hispanic Businesses Thrive in the State of Ohio

Center for Hispanic Leadership (CHL) and its Ohio Chapter, led by President, Rafi Rodriguez, will support a statewide economic development program to help Hispanic businesses more rapidly grow and prosper as a viable economic development engine.

The goal of the program is to provide Hispanic business owners the culturally relevant training to become better leaders and business operators.

Full story [here!](#)

Ohio Vacant Facilities Fund

The Ohio Vacant Facilities Fund has been allocated \$2 million, allowing up to 4,000 jobs to be created within existing buildings and using existing infrastructure. The program will leverage private investment and payroll within existing communities and will assist small and large businesses to improve and equip business sites for job creation.

Full story [here!](#)

THE
COLUMBUS
REGION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS
A REPORT FROM CHIEF ECONOMIC OFFICER KENNY McDONALD

Columbus 2020 Update

Columbus 2020 will receive \$1.8 million to support the economic development work it does as part of the JobsOhio Network. The Ohio Controlling Board released the money with the funds to come from Ohio's Third Frontier program.

Columbus 2020 was one of six regional development groups dividing more than \$8 million. They assemble economic-development deals in their parts of the state and coordinate incentive packages with JobsOhio, the state's private, nonprofit development corporation

Full story [here!](#)

Educational Event: Central Ohio Logistics and the Shale Play

When: Tuesday, March 19, 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Where: Hollywood Casino
200 Georgesville Road, Columbus, Oh 43228

Join logistics industry colleagues for networking and education to explore the shale play. Oil and gas experts will share insight through speaker presentations and a panel discussion to provide an industry overview and identify how Central Ohio businesses can participate in available business opportunities as suppliers.

For more details [click here!](#)

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March Breakfast: The Fiscal Cliff

"What is it? How Does it Affect You?"

When: Thursday, March 14, 7:30am to 9:00am

Where: Jefferson Country Club
7271 Jefferson Meadows Drive, Blacklick

Please RSVP by Monday, March 11, 2013.

For more details [click here!](#)

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Business Growth Workshop:

"Walking Through the Chamber's Website"

When: Wednesday, March 20, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Where: Mount Vernon Nazarene University
670 Morrison Road, Suite 150, Gahanna

Please RSVP by Monday, March 18, 2013

For more details [click here!](#)

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Professional Networking Night

"Pre-Game Networking Reception followed by Hockey Game"

When: Saturday, April 27, 6:00 to 7:00pm

Where: Nationwide Arena
200 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus

Join fellow business owners & area chamber members for a night of networking & fun.

For details contact Caitlin Reagan at 614-246-3079 or creagan@bluejackets.com

Tech-Tip of the Month

Is Your Company Website Easy to

Global Connect Program to Boost Exports from Columbus

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman plans to launch an effort to help small businesses find international markets and lift the region's export numbers in the process. Coleman said in his 14th State of the City address that he plans to create the Columbus Global Connect program.

Full story [here!](#)

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Columbus Ranks as Best Small Business Climate in Ohio

Columbus is the state's best city for small-business growth but it doesn't stack up quite as well against the rest of the country, a new study shows. Ohio's capital city ranks No. 43 out of the 102 largest metropolitan areas nationwide for its small business vitality.

Full story [here!](#)

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Columbus Ranked No. 7 for Women Entrepreneurs

Columbus is the seventh-best city for women entrepreneurs, according to a ranking by Forbes. The list ranks Columbus No. 7 for its median annual earnings for women and number of SBA loans in 2011 and 2012. Ohio's 25 percent growth in women-owned firms between 1997 and 2012 also bodes well for women looking to start a business in Columbus.

Full story [here!](#)

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Ohio Had 2nd-Most Business Expansions in 2012

Ohio has lost its perennial struggle with Texas for Site Selection magazine's coveted Governor's Cup, finishing second behind the Lone Star State, which blew the competition away in 2012. The annual ranking of the busiest states for corporate capital investment showed Ohio as home to 491 new or expanded capital projects.

Full story [here!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Use On a Smartphone or Tablet?

One of most common reasons for people to upgrade their websites these days is to make it possible to use the website on a smartphone or tablet. Many older websites don't perform very well on mobile devices for the following reasons: Flash video; cluttered navigation menu; different priorities for the smartphone user

Full story [here!](#)

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How to Obtain a Business Phone Line and Email Address

1) Google Apps. We use Google Apps for our company email addresses. We had the good fortune of joining the system when it was still free for small businesses, but it's a good value even at \$50 per year.

2) Google Voice. Google Voice is a beautiful service wherein you can go online and choose a new phone number out of the clear blue sky, and then forward it to a cell phone.

Full story [here!](#)

Resources & Information



www.gahanna.gov

Looking for available properties in the City? Access our searchable database for buildings and land for sale or lease.

www.gahannaareachamber.com

Are you a member of the Gahanna Area Chamber of Commerce? If not, check out all the benefits of belonging.

www.business.ohio.gov

The Ohio Business Gateway can help you find the information and services you need to keep your business thriving.



www.grownow.ohio.gov

growNOW, brought to you by the Ohio State Treasurer's office, enables small business owners to receive a 3% interest rate reduction on new or existing small business loans.

<https://aepretailenergy.com/>

AEP can assist businesses looking for a retail electricity provider. Save money on electricity now!

WWW.SBA.GOV

Eligible for Government Financing? Use SBA's Search Tool