



# 2021 **ANNUAL REPORT**



[www.madisoncountyohio.org](http://www.madisoncountyohio.org)

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## Message from Leadership



The year 2021 was a year for recovery, growth, and challenges. COVID-19 continues to be part of our lives, but we have learned to adapt and take challenges head on. The Chamber of Commerce and Madison County are both as strong as they have ever been. Communities are investing in infrastructure and services, which address current needs and help plan for future growth. Single and multi-family homes are being built in our community, and interest in residential development has never been higher. Industrial and commercial growth remains strong as we continue to see employers locate and grow in the County.

Workforce availability remains a challenge, and the problem truly showed itself in 2021. No matter if it is retail, manufacturing, healthcare or other industries in the county, everyone is hurting for workers. While there is no silver bullet solution at any level to solve the problem, the Chamber of Commerce continues to partner with education institutions, employers, local governments and other stakeholders to develop strategies and find solutions to bring more workers to Madison County and develop skills to fill local in-demand jobs.

As we move forward in 2022 and beyond, our focus remains on supporting the business community and supporting new developments and redevelopment throughout the County. Through new programs and resources, our County will be able to manage and support growth that will inevitably come our way. With growth comes more opportunities and excitement, and Madison County has so much to be excited about.

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2021 Annual Report for the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and Madison County Future, Inc. to the businesses, residents, community leaders and investors of Madison County.



## MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

The Madison County Chamber of Commerce has the mission to enhance the economic, civic and cultural growth of Madison County and act as a “voice of the business community.” This mission will be accomplished through the development and support, including both participation and financial commitment of the membership. We serve the businesses, communities and residents of Madison County.

### 2022 Chamber Board Members:

President: .....Susan Thompson  
 First VP: .....Amy Rees  
 Second VP: .....Amanda Montgomery  
 Third VP: .....Marci Darlington  
 Financial Secretary: .....Brian McMahon

Samantha Wilkins, Patrick Closser,  
 Greg Finchum, Kathy Henry,  
 Cindy Stout, Josh Cross, Liz Lynch,  
 Bob Patterson, Chris Knight,  
 Todd Hoadley, David Beickman,  
 Steve Lelonek

## MISSION STATEMENT OF MADISON COUNTY FUTURE, INC.:

Madison County Future, Inc. is a collaborative economic development organization dedicated to supporting growth for the benefit of businesses and people of Madison County.

### MADISON COUNTY FUTURE, INC. BOARD MEMBERS:

President: ..... Mark Forrest  
Vice President: ..... Jeff Pfeil  
Secretary: ..... Patrick Closser  
Treasurer: ..... Kevin Wood

Ray Martin, Dusty Parker, Josh Cross,  
John Rucker, Lou Kramer, Ben Johnson,  
Josh Cross, Marci Darlington, Leland Vogel

## MADISON COUNTY FUTURE, INC. INVESTORS:

Madison County Commissioners  
City of London  
Village of West Jefferson  
Village of Plain City  
Village of Mt. Sterling  
Jefferson Township  
Deercreek Township  
Miller Valentine Group

First Energy/Ohio Edison  
London City Schools  
IBI Group  
Bennett & Williams  
Centerpoint Development  
Dusty Paker  
Lehman Daman  
Geenex Solar



# 2021 CHAMBER GOALS

## Goal 1: Launch Madison County Leadership Program with a minimum of 7 graduates in 2022-23

- Partner with Ohio State and leadership consultant to provide expertise bring program credibility
- Market program to community and local employers to have leaders identified to participate in the program

## Goal 2: Increase membership by net 10 members

- Increase and enhance communication with current members and prospective members via direct contact, social media and newsletters.
- Strategically identify and engage prospective members for membership recruitment through Chamber and community programs
- Work with “champions” of the Chamber of Commerce to recruit new members

# MADISON COUNTY FUTURE, INC. STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024

## 1: Increase workforce participation of high school graduates in Madison County by 20 identified individuals per year

- Work with schools better identify students that do not plan to attend college immediately after high school
- Work with employers and schools to allow for those identified students to participate in the workplace through internships or job shadowing
- Build on existing internship program in Madison County and explore best practices in other communities to ensure goal is met and the program is both efficient and effective
- Work with employers to track those who utilize internship and shadow programs to determine success of worker participation

## 2: Develop a document that will serve as a guide and resource for communities to use for funding for infrastructure projects

- Identify agencies and resources at the local, state and federal level that regularly have dollars available for infrastructure improvements
- Review agencies and resources quarterly to determine any changes to existing programs or identify new programs. List all dates including application deadlines, amount of funds available, etc. Update document regularly to reflect changes and distribute to local communities
- Monitor legislative activity to prepare communities for potential funding opportunities in the future

## 3: Increase annual private investment into Madison County Future by \$10,000

- Identify benefactors from efforts with Madison County Future, Inc.
- Develop a fundraising strategy that includes value brought by Madison County Future, Inc. will encourage private investment into the organization
- Establish new funding levels for private investment into Madison County Future, Inc.

## WHY JOIN THE CHAMBER? BECOME A PART OF SOMETHING **BIGGER.**

- **PRIVATE INSURANCE DISCOUNTS**

Take advantage of the Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangement (MEWA) program through the Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance

- **EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY**

All employees of Madison County Chamber of Commerce member organizations can take advantage of free books and a tuition discount toward associate, bachelor's or master's degree and certificate programs at Franklin University.

- **SAFETY COUNCIL**

Earn up to a 3% rebate on workers comp insurance

- **NETWORKING**

Free monthly educational session geared towards strengthening your business

- **FREE DIGITAL MARKETING ASSISTANCE**

Become a recognizable face in the community by enhancing your online presence and utilizing the expertise of Chamber staff

- **NETWORK OF RESOURCES**

Utilize Chamber to solve issues and problems your business is facing by utilizing staff knowledge, connections and network of resources

- **CREDIBILITY**

Create a professional image by being a part of a community-driven organization

- **RIBBON CUTTINGS AND BUSINESS PROMOTION**

Increase publicity through email newsletters, photo ops, and social media





# NEW CHAMBER PROGRAMS

## RADIO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SESSIONS

A new benefit for members was added this year. The Chamber has partnered with the local radio station, Ready FM, to showcase members in a spotlight session. These 5 minute segments run every day for a week for each business highlighted. The radio station saves the segments in podcast for so each business can use the spotlight sessions in their own marketing. To date, over 25 members have utilized this new way to market their goods or services.

## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY

The Chamber has partnered with Franklin University to offer low tuition rates (just \$398 per credit hour for associates and bachelor's level courses), exclusive partnership tuition discounts, and online, flexible courses.

### ***Take advantage of:***

- A 20% tuition discount on all other Franklin University associate, bachelor's, master's, and certificate programs.
- A discounted rate of \$300 per credit hour on the RN-BSN program
- A new Master's of Science in Information Technology and a Master's of Science in Cyber Security.
- 100% online programs with personalized support services
- In-demand programs that align with industry standards and employer needs

# 2021 CHAMBER EVENTS



## GOLF OUTING

The 2021 Chamber Golf Outing was an exciting event for our members and the organization. Twenty teams from across the Columbus Region registered for the event and it was viewed as a very fun and positive experience. The Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities team took home the best score of the day with a 56. The Chamber was able to raise over \$12,000 through the event, and those resources were put back into the organization to assist our members. We look forward to hosting another fun, exciting golf outing for our members in 2022.

## BONANZA

Bonanza was back in 2021! After having a successful virtual event in 2020, Chamber leadership and staff decided it was important for the community to have an event where everyone could come together to have fun and support the business community. Over 190 community members and business leaders came out for Bonanza 2021. It was one of the more successful events in recent years, with over \$40,000 raised from the event. The dollars raised will support efforts of the chamber of commerce, which include developing a leadership program and further develop workforce and strategies for growth.





# MC

MADISON COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



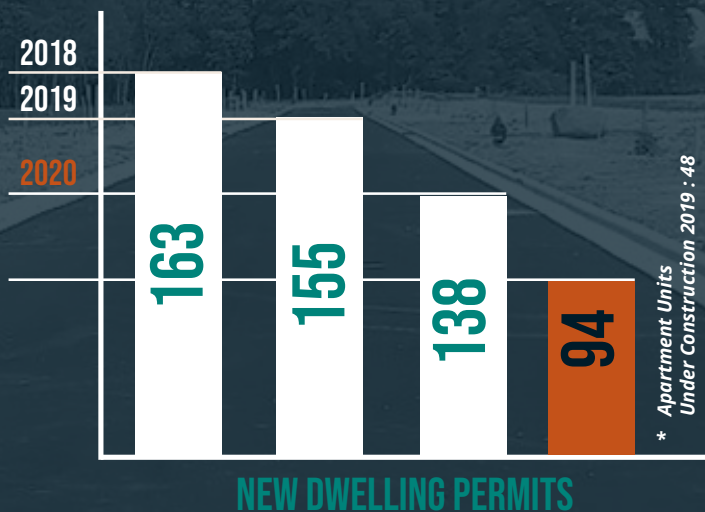
# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A number of industrial and commercial development projects moved forward in 2021. Fyda Freightliner is relocating their facility from Columbus the SR 142 in Jefferson Township and it should open in 2022. Over 2M square feet of industrial speculative buildings are being built in the Village of West Jefferson to support distribution and manufacturing industries. Post Holdings also announced that it will be building a 215,000 square foot facility that will produce protein drinks. The total project investment will be \$86M and 200 jobs will be created over 4 years.



## HOUSING DATA

*While numbers are down from previous years, Madison County continues to have a strong number of new dwelling home permits and interest in builders.*



While Plain City led the way with the most new dwelling permits in 2018-2020, London had the most in 2021 (41). Madison County continues to experience activity and strong interest from single family and multi-family home builders. DR Horton, Maronda Homes, Arbor Homes, M/I Homes and Homewood all have either started or will soon start new home developments in Madison County Communities. We can expect the number of new dwelling permits to really take off in 2022, which is exciting for the County. The Chamber of Commerce and Community Improvement Corporation staff remain committed to attracting single family and multi-family builders and developers to all Madison County communities. While promoting sustainable, controlled growth, we are confident to say that Madison County is in growth-mode and will experience a number of positive changes in the upcoming years.



# Solar

A new industry making a splash in Madison County, which has received support from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, is solar. Madison County will be the future home of at least three solar projects, with other projects currently going through the evaluation and approval process with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB). Projects that have been approved for Madison County include:



## Big Plain

- Southern Madison County
- 196 MW of clean energy added to utility grid
- 1,500 acres
- Set for completion by end of 2022
- Uses 0.5% of agricultural land in MC

## Madison Fields (Savion)

- Northwestern Madison County
- 180 MW of clean energy added to utility grid
- Approved by OPSB January 2021
- 1000 acres of solar panels (1,932 to total acres)
- Set for completion by July 2023
- Uses 0.7% of agricultural land in MC

## Fox Squirrel (Geenex Solar)

- Southern Madison County
- 577 MW of clean energy added to utility grid
- Approved by OPSB July 2021
- 3,444 acres of solar panels (3,766 total acres)
- Set for completion by end of 2024
- Uses 1.5% of agricultural land in MC

*These exciting solar projects will provide alternative sources for energy, as well as bring new revenues to communities and local school districts through payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements.*



## Madisoncountycareers.com

Madison County Future, Inc. identified an opportunity to create a website that could be a go-to resource for individuals looking for employment and resources in Madison County. Madisoncountycareers.com was developed in 2019 and went live in January 2020. Individuals can visit the site to learn about job opportunities, learn about training and education resources and inquire about available jobs in Madison County.



## Madison County Internship Program

Created in 2019, the Madison County Internship Program has twenty local businesses and 13 students from within Madison County schools participating in the program. The program has continued to grow since it was created and both Madison County Future, Inc. and the Madison County Chamber of Commerce are committed to growing the program more within the County. Participating businesses and schools in 2021 include:

### **BUSINESSES**

Ag-Pro  
 Bluebird Retirement Community  
 Buckeye Ford  
 Casa Enterprises  
 Direct Mechanical  
 Dixon Concrete  
 Family Children First Council  
 Green & Sons LTD  
 Iron Clad Ag, LLC  
 James Peart State Farm Insurance  
 Jonathan Alder Schools  
 London City Schools  
 MH-Eby  
 Madison County Prosecutor's Office  
 McMahan Truck Centers  
 Mount Sterling Community Center  
 Nissen Chemitec  
 Phat Daddy's Pizza  
 Plain City Druggist  
 Proctor Conference Center  
 Rails Edge Horse Farm  
 Ready FM  
 Richmond Kennels  
 Tolles Career & Technical Center  
 WinCup  
 Wilson Printing  
 XPress Fitness

### **SCHOOLS**

Tolles – 111 students  
 Jonathan Alder – 13 students  
 London – 12 students  
 Madison Plains – 3 students



## MADISON COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS



## ANNUAL REPORT SPONSORS:



## PROGRAM SPONSORS:





# 37 NEW MEMBERS

## ***New Madison County Chamber of Commerce Members in 2021***

TownePlace Suites Hilliard  
USA Investment Group  
MCV Properties, Inc.  
Burke's Outlet  
ZCI Contracting  
WOW Painting and Contracting  
Junior Achievement of Mad River Region  
Buckeye Community School  
Bodycote  
US Bank Solutions  
Vander Haag's  
American Solution for Business  
Front Porch Home  
JD Rentals Enterprises, LLC  
Specialty Outdoors  
Bennett & Williams  
Savion LLC  
Madison Painting LLC  
360 Viewbox LLC  
Concessions by Cox of Ohio, Inc.  
Winterwell, LLC  
This Guy Paints  
Marci Darlington  
Amy Rees  
Weichart Realtors  
Medline Industries LLC  
Accelerated Revenue, Inc.  
Biscuit Boss  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
T-Mobile  
Arbor Homes  
Our Traditions Catering  
Madison-Champaign ESC  
Property Management Inc., Columbus