

ISSUE 17 - WINTER 2016

SHELBY COUNTY SIZZLES

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African Cuisine in Sidney?



In 2015, Ousmane Wade opened Sene-Store at 549 North Vandemark Road in Sidney. Having spent the previous ten years working in Cincinnati at the restaurant of his brother-in-law, Ousmane wanted to open a unique business of his own. The original concept for Sene-Store was to offer grocery products common in West Africa as the primary business and feature African style cuisine as a secondary focus. Ousmane understood that there was a population of West African people residing in Sidney and with them as his customer base, he could grow his business from there.

Over time the popularity of his Senegalese/American fusion cuisine grew significantly so much so that he flip-flopped his business concept to that of a restaurant first and foremost. As for the food, Ousmane describes it this way, "We use only fresh ingredients and everything is made to order. Only the best cuts of chicken, beef, fish, and lamb are used and

most everything on the menu is grilled." Ousmane says that he likes to offer dishes native to Senegal Africa along with others more recognizable by Shelby County diners so in addition to Yassa and Maffe, guests can enjoy African fusion selections such as chicken wings, egg rolls, and quesadillas each prepared with the flavorful seasonings of Senegal. Those with a taste for spicy can have that too. Ousmane says he's happy to season each order to the taste preferences of his customers. A wide variety of domestic and import teas, juices, and soft drinks are also offered including Kinkeliba and Bouye made fresh daily at the restaurant.

Ongoing renovations continue at Sene-Store Senegalese Cuisine to further develop the business as a restaurant. Today Ousmane says that about 90% of his volume is take-out. Seating is available for up to 15 guests. Local delivery is also available.

Workforce Mobile Lab is on the Road

Workforce Partnership's Mobile Career Lab has been on the move the past several months with visits to Sidney's Longfellow Elementary, Lehman High School, Jackson Center Schools, and Sidney Christian Academy.

In an effort to provide workforce curricula throughout all the county schools, the idea of a mobile classroom was born. Airstream, a member of Workforce Partnership, customized one of their Jackson Center produced travel trailers to help launch the mobile lab. This venture was made possible through the generosity of Airstream, as well as donations from county businesses and private donors. The 30 foot trailer houses a large screen TV, with four smaller televisions that allow students to view videos and presentations related to the Shelby County workforce. The lab also houses a library of reference books for ages K-12, Apple iPads and other technologies. Display cases showcase various parts and products produced in Shelby



County and take-home literature is also available.

A full K-12 curriculum is being developed that will allow hands-on, real world experiences for the students. The goal of the lab is to introduce students to the tremendous career opportunities and great companies found right here in Shelby County. For more information on the Workforce Partnership, visit www.workforcepartner.com or contact Sharon Maurice, Director, at smaurice@workforcepartner.com or call 937-498-9900.

Sidney Alive Begins Downtown Revitalization Effort

In May of 2014, Sidney Mayor Mike Barhorst called together a group of 60 citizens to identify the obstacles to growth in the downtown business district. In the months since then, the Downtown Revitalization Task Force, formed from that first group, has been at work developing *Sidney Alive*, a 501(c)3, for the purpose of overcoming the issues identified at the 2014 meeting. The objectives of *Sidney Alive* include promoting the downtown, seeking funding sources, and providing oversight of redevelopment.

Sidney Alive is filing articles of incorporation with the State of Ohio, but the Task Force is planning to be ready with a board and officers, as well as subcommittees, while the legal process is underway. Subcommittees named in the *Sidney Alive* by-laws include events and activities,

resource development, marketing, advocacy, and finance/auditing. The Sidney City Manager and a Shelby County Commissioner will have seats on the board of nine to fifteen people.

Sidney City Council has also approved the Task Force's recommendation to obtain membership in Heritage Ohio, a statewide group that assists local governments in preserving the historic elements of communities while offering best practices for developing the unique characteristics of each. The Task Force plans to consult Heritage Ohio for redevelopment ideas as *Sidney Alive* takes shape. The group is also working with city officials to determine the boundaries that define the downtown district.

New Yoga Studio Opens in Sidney

Recently opened in downtown Sidney is Serenity Yoga, a Yoga and Wellness Center offering Yoga, Pilates and Barre Fit, with additional types of fitness classes planned for the near future. Serenity Yoga also hosts a massage and wellness room and is actively looking for massage and other wellness experts who would like to use this space.

Jim Gover, owner of Serenity Yoga, has been practicing yoga for over three years. After taking his third class he knew he had to share his experience with others. Jim is a certified RYT 200 Yoga instructor and says his classes are fun and challenging for all levels of yogis, beginners to advanced students. First timers are always welcome and encouraged to not worry if they've never practiced before.

According to Jim, "Everyone ultimately has

to go to their first yoga class and says he takes honor in being someone's first instructor."

Serenity not only has Yoga instructors, but their Barre Fit and Pilates classes are led by dance instructors from Sharon's School of Dance. In addition, the studio has plans to offer weekend workshops of differing varieties along with Wine and Yoga and Brews and Yoga classes. Those interested in learning more are encouraged to visit their web site at serenityyogasidney.com or email Jim at info@SerenityYogaSidney.com.



Redskin Park Underway in Ft. Loramie

The Village of Ft. Loramie recently began construction on a new 29 acre recreational complex located at the intersection of State Route 705 and East Park Street. The conceptual park plan includes four ball diamonds, two soccer fields, a multi-purpose field, five shelter houses and plentiful walking trails and parking for park patrons.

Ft. Loramie Village Administrator Tony Schmitmeyer reported that the site has been leveled to finish grade and the 24" storm water mains have been replaced or upgraded. Crews have also started to clear the underbrush and thin out the wooded area to make room for the walking trails. Initial work on the gravel base for the parking lot has also been commenced with plans to install field drainage tile as soon as the weather permits.

The community has additional plans for the park in 2016. "We are currently working with the Ft. Loramie Football Boosters on a joint project to build a shelter with restrooms/storage building near the multipurpose

field that will be used mainly for the football team as a practice field," stated Schmitmeyer. "The Football Boosters are also working on installing an irrigation system on the multipurpose field. We're excited to have their involvement in the project," Schmitmeyer added.



Other plans for 2016 call for the installation of a sanitary tile to Shelter #1 and Shelter/Concession #2 and additional clearing of the wooded area, leaving the mature trees.

MV Arms Open for Business

Late last year Adam Christian opened M.V.Arms, a gun store that caters to firearms enthusiasts from the first time gun owner to the serious collector. Hunters, shooters, and those interested in self-defense are sure to find a wide-selection of guns along with in-store expertise on how to use and care for them at M.V.Arms.

For years it was Adam's dream to open a gun store in Sidney. As a tribute to his mother's late husband, Mark Verdier, Adam named his new store in Mr. Verdier's honor. Mark Verdier was an avid collector and gun smith.

Like Adam, it was always Mr. Verdier's dream to open a gun shop of his own. Before being able to do so he passed away and as a tribute, Adam named the store in his honor and adopted a logo often used by Mr. Verdier.

M.V.Arms buys, sells, and trades firearms at a reasonable price. All makes and models of pistols, rifles, and shotguns are available along with a full line of weapons accessories like scopes, cleaning kits, holsters, and ammunition. M.V.Arms is located in the Vandemark Plaza at 521 North Vandemark Road in Sidney.

<p>SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS</p>	 <p>Re/Max One 216 East Poplar St. Sidney, Ohio 45365 (937) 497-7961 www.gaysmith.com</p>	 <p>Days Inn Sidney Conference Center 400 Folkert Avenue Sidney OH, 45365 -9002 937-492-1131 www.DaysInn.com</p>	<p>Shelby County-It's time Get FIBER'd UP! Up to 1GB to your business or home</p>  <p>Call today for service & availability 937-658-6000 nktelco.net</p> <p>LOCAL SERVICE & TECH SUPPORT FIBER TO THE HOME • COMPETITIVE PRICING</p>
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*For a free digital copy of Shelby Sizzles, please visit www.choosesidneyshelby.com

There's a New Sign in Town

Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Professional Realty is opening a new office in Sidney located at 110 E. Poplar in the Historic Murphy on the Square Building. Berkshire Hathaway is a National Holding Company owned by Warren Buffett. Sandi Shipman, Clay Wildermuth and Vanessa Goshorn will be joined by full-time dedicated realtors with a passion for real estate who will be representing buyers, sellers and those needing national relocation.

With 25 offices in Ohio and Northern Kentucky including Troy and New Bremen, Berkshire Hathaway will open up a wide market for potential buyers. Berkshire Hathaway offers many services including paperless transactions, digital promotion of listings, daily market updates, and a home search mobile app. These services are all designed to deliver to clients the information they want in an easy and efficient way.

Berkshire Hathaway believes in advocating for their clients with a company culture defined by seven core values including Expertise, Integrity, Perspective, Collaboration, Innovation, Compassion, and Enthusiasm.

With offices locally managed and operated, Berkshire Hathaway agents have strong ties to their local communities and Sandi Shipman feels "a sense of pride in being a part of the downtown". She is looking forward to a Grand Opening with a "team of Berkshire Hathaway Professional Realtors" being planned for Wednesday February 17th with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 4:30 p.m. and Chamber Business After-Hours to follow. More information can be received by visiting www.bhhspro.com.



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