

Happy
New
Year!

Newsletter

January 8th, 2025



**LOOKING FOR MEMBER
ANNOUNCEMENTS?
CLICK HERE!**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>FROM THE CEO</u>	1
<u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u>	2
<u>REGIONAL HOUSING SYMPOSIUM</u>	3
<u>MEMBER UPDATES</u>	4
<u>TALENT ENGAGEMENT</u>	5
<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>	6
<u>RESEARCH & PLANNING</u>	7
<u>PROGRAMMING & PLACEMAKING</u>	8
<u>GRANT OPPORTUNITY</u>	9
<u>NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS</u>	10



A note from the CEO

Strength in Partnership

Building Momentum through Collaboration

As we kick off 2026, I want to start by saying thank you—to our members, partners, and community leaders who continue to invest their time, talent, and trust in the Greater Sandusky Partnership.

There is a lot to be excited about in the year ahead.

Across our region, we are seeing momentum build—new ideas taking shape, long-standing challenges being approached differently, and a growing recognition that our greatest opportunities come when the public, private, and civic sectors move forward *together*. Strengthening that public-private partnership will remain at the heart of GSP's work in 2026.

This year, you'll see us continue to focus on creating a strong, coordinated regional voice for the advancement of our economy, our communities, and our quality of life. That means advocating for policies that support business growth and talent attraction, convening leaders around shared priorities, and helping align efforts so that we are pulling in the same direction as a region. An example you'll see in just a few weeks is the Regional Housing Symposium where we'll examine challenges and explore solutions alongside local developers, community leaders, and regional partners.

At the same time, GSP remains deeply committed to supporting and supplementing the great work happening in our partner communities and organizations—both here in Erie County and across neighboring counties. We believe regional success does not come at the expense of local identity; it is built by lifting up each community's strengths and connecting them in meaningful ways.

There are big things ahead in 2026—new initiatives, deeper partnerships, and important conversations that will shape our region's future. Thank you for being part of this work. We look forward to continuing the journey with you and to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

— *Eric Wobser*

President & CEO
Greater Sandusky Partnership

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 22nd MEMBER ORIENTATION

Gathering Grounds Coffee House
10:00 - 11:00 am

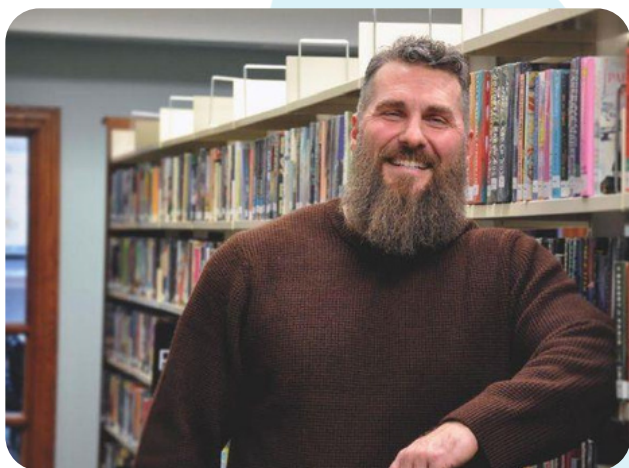
[REGISTER](#)



January 22nd RIPPLES OF PLASTIC: FREE FILM SCREENING

Huron Public Library
5:00 - 6:30 pm

[REGISTER](#)



February 11TH COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Sandusky Library
9:30 - 11:00 am

[REGISTER](#)

[MORE EVENTS](#)



Regional Housing Symposium

Join us to hear about emerging strategies to address regional housing needs, learn from local and statewide partners leading successful projects, and take part in a conversation about how we can work together to expand housing opportunities across the region.

DATE: Thursday, January 29

TIME: 8:30 - 11:30 am

LOCATION: Kalahari Resorts & Conventions, 7000 Kalahari Dr, Sandusky, OH 44870

[REGISTER NOW](#)

BECOME A SPONSOR:

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact Patrick Shepherd at patrick@greatersandusky.com for more information or [CLICK HERE](#)

Supported by:



MEMBER UPDATES



MEMBER ORIENTATION

Whether you're brand new to the Greater Sandusky Partnership or looking to re-engage, this event is a welcoming opportunity to connect over coffee and learn how to make the most of your membership. Learn about the full menu of member benefits.

DATE: Thursday, January 22

TIME: 10:00am - 11:00am

LOCATION: Gathering Grounds Coffee House, 404 Main St, Huron

Tell us you're coming!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Feat. New Sandusky Library Executive Director, William Rutger

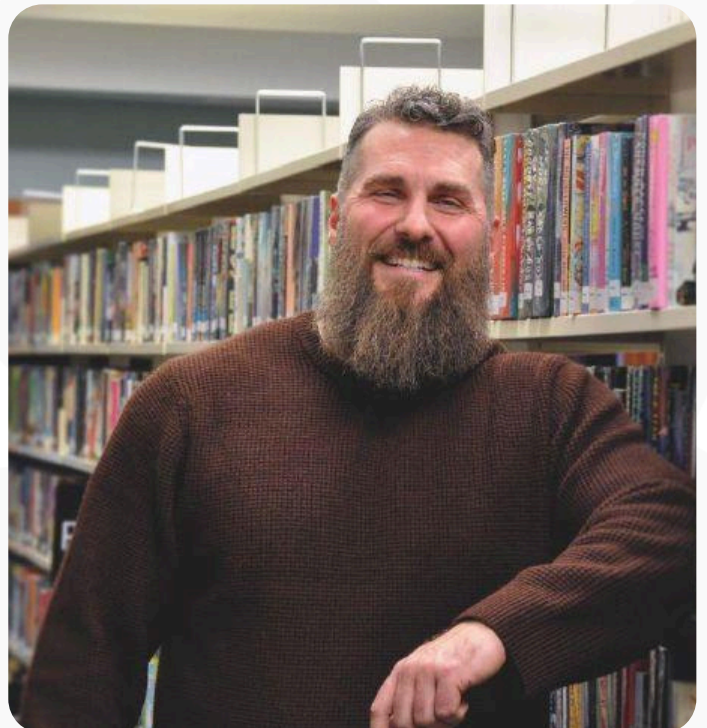
Enjoy complimentary coffee, networking, and conversation as William shares his vision for the library's future.

DATE: Wednesday, February 25

TIME: 10:00am

LOCATION: Sandusky Library

Tell us you're coming!



TALENT ENGAGEMENT



WORKSPACE THINK TANK LINKEDIN WORKSHOP

North Coast Young Professionals is teaming up with Work Space to host a LinkedIn and Personal Branding Workshop! GSP and NCYP Members can attend for FREE.

DATE: Friday, February 20

TIME: 9:00AM

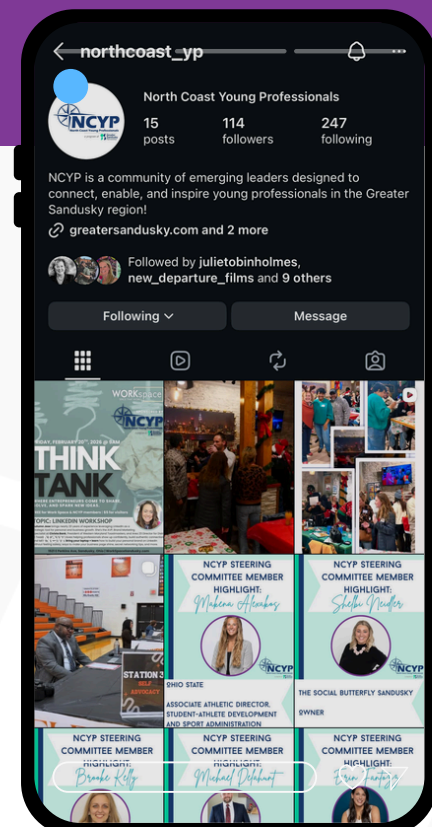
LOCATION: Work Space, 1521 E Perkins Avenue, Sandusky, OH

[Register to attend NOW!](#)

FOLLOW NCYP ON IG

You can now connect with North Coast Young Professionals on Instagram!

See the latest events, updates and resources for young professionals!



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



200+ NEW JOBS ON THE WAY CONGRATS LEWCO & LOGISTIQ



LEWCO and LogistiQ announced plans for a \$24M expansion that will create approximately 208 new jobs in the region.

JobsOhio, the Ohio Department of Development, Team NEO, the Regional Growth Partnership, the Greater Sandusky Partnership, and the Ottawa County Improvement Corporation all worked with LEWCO and LogistiQ to bring this expansion to Northern Ohio.

[Read more about it here](#)

2025 IN REVIEW: ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

The Erie County Port Authority, administered by Greater Sandusky Partnership, helps businesses and communities finance major capital investments through flexible tools designed to reduce project costs and accelerate development.

In 2025, the ECPA completed nine projects across seven counties, facilitating \$230 million in capital investment in the region.

ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

administered by



Stay tuned for a full 2025 ECPA Report!



SANDUSKY BAY PATHWAY

There is an open Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant team on an ATIIP-funded planning project due end of January, focusing on multi-use trail connections between Sandusky and Port Clinton—with special emphasis on feasibility for a pedestrian/bike pathway across Sandusky Bay, building on the recent federal Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program grant.

ABOUT THE GRANT

ROUTE 6 COORIDOR STUDY

The Erie County Port Authority is leading the effort for a Route 6 Corridor Economic Development Study to examine economic opportunities along Rt. 6 from Rye Beach Road to Cedar Point Drive. GSP has engaged key stakeholders to identify priorities, and we're actively seeking additional funders to launch the study in Q2 2026.



These initiatives advance regional connectivity and vibrancy—extending the visionary 100-mile Sandusky Bay Pathway network while unlocking economic potential along critical corridors like Rt. 6.

PROGRAMMING & PLACEMAKING



Sandusky RESTAURANT WEEK

Save the date! Sandusky Restaurant Week is returning March 5 - 15th

Restaurants in the 44870 area code are invited to participate.

Stay tuned for more information.

HURON LAKE FRONT MARKET VENDOR APPLICATION OPEN

Huron Lake Front Market will return this summer! GSP is now accepting vendor applications.

For more information on becoming a vendor, please email Rachael Summerfield at rsummerfield@greatersandusky.com



GRANT OPPORTUNITY!

SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO



2026 DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE IN ERIE AND OTTAWA COUNTIES

**SHORES &
ISLANDS
OHIO**

Shores & Islands Ohio is now accepting applications for its 2026 Destination Development Grant Program. Projects should focus on improving amenities, attractions, and facilities, fostering connections between residents and visitors, and aligning with S&IO's mission and strategic goals.

New this year, grant applicants are required to attend an informational meeting before they are allowed to apply. There will be a virtual option for those who cannot attend in-person. If unable to participate in any of the sessions, the applicant must schedule a one-on-one review with Amanda Smith Rasnick before applying.

Email amanda@shoresandislands.com with questions regarding the info sessions or to schedule a personal review.

Applications are due February 25, 2026, with award meetings scheduled April 1–3 and April 6–8.

CLICK TO LEARN MORE

Upcoming Informational Sessions:

**MONDAY
DEC. 8TH**

**10:00AM &
3:00PM**

**S&IO EAST
125 E. Water
St., Sandusky**

**TUESDAY
DEC. 9TH**

**9:00AM &
2:00PM**

**S&IO WEST
770 S.E.
Catawba Rd.,
Port Clinton**

Thank You

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS!



ROE'S TREE SERVICE

HOTEL ON THE PARK INC

T PROPERTIES GROUP

SANDUSKY DOCK CORP.

KEY REAL ESTATE LTD.

BUCKEYE TREE & CRANE SERVICES LLC

BEACH N PEAKS

SANDUSKY HARDWARE

TROMI CORPORATION

JAKAL HOLDINGS LLC



Greater
Sandusky
Partnership

604 W Washington, Suite 1
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

greater sandusky.com
info@greater sandusky.com
419-625-6421



GSP Member Events, Announcements and Updates

January 8, 2026

Member Newsletter Submissions

Member updates will be shared through our monthly newsletter. Member events can also be found on our website on the [Community Calendar](#).

Members, please note, if you have an addition to the newsletter, it should be 8.5"x11" and shared as either a png, jpg or PDF file. Newsletters will be sent monthly. Please send your flyers to Alissa Fisher, Director of Marketing, at afisher@greatersandusky.com.

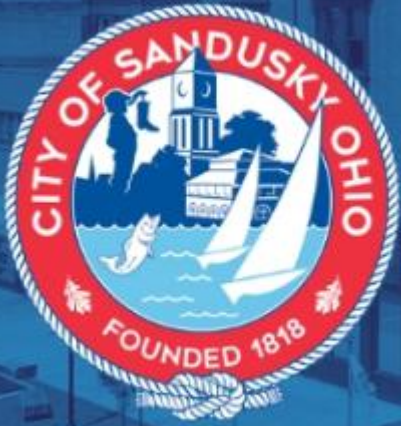
Not yet a member? Join GSP today as a [Business Member](#), [Community Partner](#), [Individual Member](#) or [NCYP Member](#)!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MEMBER APPLICATION



greatersandusky.com
info@greatersandusky.com
419-625-6421



CITY OF SANDUSKY

Sandusky, Ohio -- The City of Sandusky invites you to take part in an [online survey](#) as the next step in the [Housing Development Accelerator](#), a citywide effort focused on expanding housing options and strengthening neighborhoods.

The survey follows a series of in-person focus group workshops held this fall and gives residents another opportunity to share feedback on housing needs, preferences, and development standards across the city. Additional follow-up discussions are planned for March.

The online survey will be open from December 22, 2025, through January 30, 2026, and is open to all residents, workers, property owners, and others with an interest in Sandusky's future.

“This is a chance for people to weigh in on the types of housing they want to see in Sandusky and how new development should fit into existing neighborhoods,” said Chief Planner Arin Blair. “The feedback we receive will directly inform future planning, design guidance, and zoning updates.”

The Housing Development Accelerator is led by the City's Division of Planning in partnership with OHM Advisors. The project is focused on identifying practical, market-ready housing types that align with neighborhood character and support the City's long-term housing goals outlined in its Strategic Plan.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ACCELERATOR



CITY OF SANDUSKY

ONLINE SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sandusky Housing Development Accelerator
**Online Community Survey will be open from
December 22, 2025 to January 30, 2026.**

Your feedback will help shape future planning
efforts and guide decisions that support a
more diverse, affordable, and community-
aligned housing strategy.

**We encourage all residents to participate
and share the survey with others!**

www.cityofsandusky.com/housingaccelerator

YOUR VOICE MATTERS





ENERGY SUPPORT

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BUSINESSES CAN TRUST



Energy costs and supplier changes can be confusing—especially for small health and wellness businesses focused on serving clients, not managing utilities.

One Chamber Energy Program member shared:

"I was helped both times by the same person. Matt was fast, efficient, and nothing but polite. I thank him for all of that."

— Patti Lombardo, Illumin8 Wellness. Mind. Body. Soul.



The Chamber Energy Program provides hands-on support to help members resolve issues, understand their energy options, and avoid costly surprises. **Get your free bill review today** by visiting www.chamberenergyprogram.com, filling out the form, and uploading a recent copy of your electric and gas bills.



UPCOMING DECEMBER COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALL MONTH LONG

**ART IN THE GALLERY: FIRELANDS SHUTTERBUGS
ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE
OHIO FIRST DISPLAY**

9

**FRI
JAN**

10:30AM: Senior Stretch
1:00pm: Scrabble Fridays

11

**SUN
JAN**

1:00PM: Chess with Paul Sherwood

12

**MON
JAN**

ALL DAY: Take & Make Craft: America 250
11:30 AM: Mahjong Mondays
2:45 PM - 4:30 PM: After School Gaming Club
6:00 PM: Socrates Cafe

13

**TUES
JAN**

11:00 AM: Art Club
2:00 PM: Virtual Author Talk with David Brooks
6:30 PM: Family Storytime

[VIEW ALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS ONLINE!](#)



WORKspace
SPACE THAT WORKS.

THINK TANK

**WHERE ENTREPRENEURS COME TO SHARE,
SOLVE, AND SPARK NEW IDEAS.**

SCHEDULE

***Guided Discussion & Brain Dumps**

Our facilitator or speaker will lead the group with insightful questions to spark collaboration. You can share specific challenges you're facing in your business so others can offer feedback, ideas, and connections to provide real results in real time.

***Takeaways & Wrap-Up**

Everyone shares one action item or insight they'll implement that month thanks to Think Tank.

TOPICS IN 2026

Small Business Tax Tips, LinkedIn Workshop, Grants 101, and more.

**FREE FOR WORK SPACE MEMBERS
\$5 FOR VISITORS**

A casual roundtable for **small business owners and entrepreneurs** to talk through obstacles, exchange ideas, and learn from each other's experiences.

Each session focuses on a **common challenge**, followed by open discussion and shared insights.

**Third Friday every
month at 9:00 AM**

THIS MONTH:



WORKspace

SPACE THAT WORKS.

Second Monday every month at 9:00 AM

CREATIVE MORNINGS

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY + CONNECTION + COMMUNITY

A space to stir up ideas, inspire & network.

We'll be mixing it up with different open discussions and speakers to showcase **local talent**, spark **imagination**, and ignite **new partnerships** – all set around a central theme each month.

Each session will consist of...

- Networking
- Inspiration Segment
- Interactive Moment
- Wrap-Up

FREE FOR WORK SPACE MEMBERS
\$5 FOR VISITORS

www.WorkSpaceSandusky.com
1521 E Perkins Ave, Sandusky, OH

FEBRUARY

Theme: Connections
Interactive Moment:
Who's in Your Orbit?

JANUARY

Theme: Beginnings
Interactive Moment:
Vision Boards

MARCH

Theme: Growth
Interactive Moment:
Reels & CapCut

APRIL

Theme: Innovation
Interactive Moment:
Reverse Brainstorm

THIS MONTH:





Directions
Cares for
Classrooms

CLASSROOM GRANTS 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR



Supporting Educators in Our Communities

Directions is proud to champion the incredible work you do every day in the classroom—and we're here to help bring your boldest ideas to life!

We know that teachers often go above and beyond, even reaching into their own pockets to make learning magical. That's why we're thrilled to announce our Cares for Classrooms Grants—a special initiative to support the creativity, passion, and dedication of K–12 educators in the communities we serve.

Here's the exciting part:

We're awarding up to \$15,000 in total grants during the 2025–2026 school year, with individual grants of up to \$500 available to fund classroom dreams big and small.

Whether you need:



New books to spark imagination



Math manipulatives to make numbers come alive



Art supplies to unleash creativity



Software or AV equipment to enhance engagement



Lab Materials for hands-on discovery



Any other resource that supports student learning

...we've got your back!

If you're a K–12 educator in a community served by Directions, we encourage you to apply and let us help you make a difference—one project, one student, one classroom at a time.

Let's build something amazing together. We can help turn your classroom vision into reality!

HOW TO APPLY:

COMPLETE THE ONLINE APPLICATION AT:

<https://directionscu.org/cares-for-classrooms/>



Online & Mobile



APPLICATION WINDOW:

FALL 2025

8/25/2025 through 9/30/2025

Winners will be announced on or before November 3, 2025.

WINTER 2026

12/1/2025 through 1/31/2026

Winners will be announced on or before March 2, 2026.

TROUBLE AFFORDING CHILD CARE?

The Erie County Tuition Assistance Program Can Help!!

Covers
licensed &
unlicensed
care

Must meet 2 of these:
1. Live in Erie County
2. Work in Erie County
3. Child care is in Erie
County

Funds
granted for
up to one
year

For children
6wks-12
years of age

Receive 1:1
support from
CCRC
Specialist

Employers can
contribute to
help
employees
succeed!

Is My Family Eligible?

Family Size:



Income Limit:

\$2,383/month

\$3,004/month

\$3,625/month

\$4,247/month



Made possible through the Dorn Foundation, Mylander Foundation, and supported by the Erie County Community Foundation.

Apply Now!

Questions? Contact Tiffany Felter:
440-242-0413 ext. *251 or
tfelter@ccrcinc.com


child care
RESOURCE CENTER



Partner with Us to Strengthen Business and Child Care Together

My Faith Learning Center is partnering with local employers to create a sustainable solution that benefits both businesses and families. Through a state funded Business Partnership Grant, businesses can:

- Reserve guaranteed child care slots for their employees
- Contribute directly to child care tuition support
(additional discounts with the preferred employer plan)

This partnership aligns business needs with dependable, high-quality child care for working families. By joining us, your organization helps build a stronger workforce, supports employee well-being, and invests in the long-term growth of our community.

We invite your business to be part of this collaboration and help shape a model that works for employers, employees, and children alike. Each business partner will be encouraged to participate in the first year of the project to receive foundational support that will help them implement the needed plan for long-term employee support implementation through their fiscal and human resource infrastructure. Support from the state grant will be provided in tiers: 75% in the first year, 25% in the second year, and phased out entirely by the third year, at which point no state support will be provided. The grant will provide support and a "runway" for businesses to update HR policies, rework fiscal investments and support new and existing employees with their child care needs. Child care supports offer a meaningful benefit that reduces absenteeism and improves retention for any business that invests.

To partner and take advantage of this grant opportunity you will:

1. Sign a MOU between the child care program and business
2. CCRC will assist the business with creating a rollout or pilot run of the program
3. Data will be collected from both the child care program and partnering business
4. Quarterly meetings will be held with the child care staff, HR staff and if there are parent groups we will meet with them as well.

If you are interested in a discussion or to begin partnering today contact Jennifer Dodge at 440-242-0413 ext. *231 or email at jdodge@ccrcinc.com.

Thank you



Invites the community to a FREE performance

“I Have a DREAM” Speech

Mon. Jan. 19, 2026 Reception 12:30 pm Speech 1:10 pm – 2pm
Sandusky High School Theater/Auditorium, 2130 Hayes Ave.



The performance of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
is funded by The Lange Trust



Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and relive the momentous “I Have a Dream” speech. Dr. Rev. John H. McCants, Jr., St. Paul AME Methodist Church in Canton, portrays Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Assisted Living Near You

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440-967-2424

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Seven Days a Week**

Write life's next chapters with the help of Kingston Residence of Vermilion. We combine enriching experiences with quality, 24-hour onsite nursing to provide a community where residents can embrace happiness with open arms, we bring stability, engagement, and connection to every part of life.



**Is It the Right Time
for Senior Living?**
Take Our Survey


KINGSTON
RESIDENCE
of VERMILION

EXERCISE ROOM

Free to use!

60 AND OLDER

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8AM-4PM

Erie County
Senior Center
620 E. Water St
Sandusky, OH 44870
419-626-2560

