

Newsletter

April 2nd, 2026





April Fools!



Despite it being a very popular post on Destination Sandusky, Girl with the Galoshes will NOT be joining the Boy with the Boot in downtown Sandusky...

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FROM THE CEO



Shaping Our Future with Opportunity & Intention

Eric Wobser | CEO, Greater Sandusky Partnership

For a local teenager in the 1990s, conventional wisdom was that the Sandusky area was a great place to grow up, but that you would likely have to leave town to make a good living.

For a time, that is exactly what I and many others did. And while those experiences shaped my life and career, I often daydreamed about returning home and doing work that I loved in a place that I loved.

That opportunity came in 2014, when I had the honor of returning home to serve as City Manager. It was a chance to rejoin a community beginning to rethink its future. The work was meaningful and the quality of life was second to none. Not only were we close to family, but we were living affordably in America's Best Coastal Small Town. I could walk to work downtown but also drive to the movie theatre or the many shopping options on bustling Milan Road in less than ten minutes. The Lake Erie Islands, charming small towns and rural communities were also at our fingertips.

The key for me was that I was able to live in this incredible place *without* having to sacrifice my professional goals. While people make sacrifices to live in places they love every day, our goal is to build a region people can choose to live and thrive regardless of their vocation.

To be clear, Greater Sandusky already offers tremendous economic opportunity. We have strong manufacturing, health care, and tourism sectors, as well as an incredible small business community. But to fully realize our potential, we must continue to diversify our economy and add year-round economic activity.

One of our best opportunities to further diversify and create jobs in the innovation economy is at and around the NASA Armstrong Test Facility. NASA Armstrong is home to testing facilities that are unique on a national and global scale. The presence of NASA's Armstrong Test Facility has long been a point of civic pride, and for decades, leaders have worked to protect, support and strengthen that presence. Today, we have a unique opportunity to build on that foundation.

With land available adjacent to the facility, we are positioned to attract investment from industries aligned with NASA's work like advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and research-driven companies. These opportunities can expand career pathways and help shape a more resilient economy.

So much becomes possible when we think differently about our future. If we get this right, we can build on our destination economy while creating new opportunities for people to live and work here, so future generations don't feel like they have to choose between reaching for the stars or living in the place they love.



Shores & Islands Ohio Annual Meeting

April 29th

The Shores & Islands Ohio Annual Meeting is a yearly gathering of partners, stakeholders, and community leaders to reflect on progress, celebrate achievements, and look ahead to future opportunities. The 2026 meeting highlights the theme Honoring our past, shaping our future in alignment with America 250.

Event Details:

Wednesday, April 29th

4:00pm - 7:00pm

Sawmill Creek Resort, 400 Sawmill Creek Dr. W, Huron

[REGISTER HERE](#)

GSP, Shores & Islands Ohio & Erie County Announce Partnership:

In January, GSP, Shores & Islands Ohio, Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau and the Erie County Commissioners announced a strategic partnership to better align regional promotion and development, strengthen public-private collaboration and ensure transparent and responsible stewardship of local lodging tax dollars. If you have questions about the partnership, contact us or read the announcement below.



**SHORES &
ISLANDS
OHIO**



[Read the Announcement](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Greater Sandusky Partnership
Business Growth Series

Session Leader:
Exclusively BA

LEADING WITH AI

Explore how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we plan, analyze and grow

April 22 | 10:00 AM | In-Person & Virtual Options

April 22 **LEADING WITH AI**

Stride Mobility
10:00 - 11:30am

REGISTER VIRTUAL
REGISTER IN-PERSON



April 23 **HURON BUSINESS CONNECTION**

Huron Public Library
5:00 - 7:00pm

RSVP



April 28 **MEMBER ORIENTATION**

Sandusky Library
9:30 - 11:00am

REGISTER

MORE EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP EXPERIENCE



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We want to hear from YOU! Please consider taking our GSP Member Survey.

Are you enjoying your GSP membership?

What can we do improve your experience with the chamber?

What are YOUR business goals and how we can support them?

[TAKE SURVEY](#)



BUSINESS GROWTH SESSION

Leading with AI

Presented by Meg Corso, Exclusively BA

Explore how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we plan, analyze and grow. Better understand your online presence, identify hidden opportunities and analyze consumer behavior.

This CEO-style Power Hour is designed for business owners, executives and nonprofit leaders. In-person and virtual options available!

[IN-PERSON](#)

[VIRTUAL](#)



GRAND OPENING

Celebrating the 1880

The 1880 is a new bourbon bar located at the Firelands Winery in Sandusky. This bar will feature a signature cocktail each weekend with your choice of bourbon. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 5pm-8pm. Congratulations to Tobi Guseman and team on this new venture!



[READ MORE](#)



SPOTLIGHTING WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Throughout March, Greater Sandusky Partnership had the opportunity to highlight women who are leading businesses and shaping our communities across the region. [READ THEIR STORIES >>>](#)



TALENT ENGAGEMENT



[LEARN MORE](#)

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Applications Now Open!

Employers can register interns to participate in a 6-week program for college-level summer interns where they will spend one day each week exploring the region.

In 2025, interns visited NASA Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility, took the ferry to Put-in-Bay, toured downtown Vermilion, and more!

Questions? Ask our Talent Engagement Manager, Jarvis:

jcole@greatersandusky.com

CAREER SHOWCASE

Get in Front of Young Talent!

The Career Showcase returns May 11th. This is a prime opportunity for employers to connect with area high school students and share careers available in the region. Employers can now register to participate. Deadline to register is April 24th



[REGISTER](#)

[2025 Video](#)



EDISON WINS 14TH CONNSECUTIVE TITLE

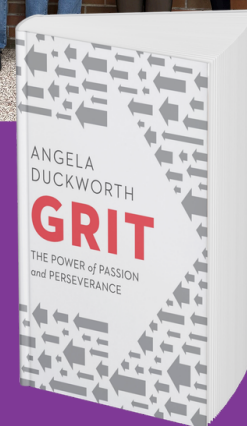
Firelands Academic Challenge

Congratulations to the EHS Firelands Challenge Team on their 14th consecutive win. GSP sponsored the season and gifted each student *Grit* by Angela Duckworth with a message to continue showing up and working toward their goals.



**“ENTHUSIASM IS COMMON.
ENDURANCE IS RARE.”**

- ANGELA DUCKWORTH, GRIT



READ MORE



WE ARE HIRING

GSP Summer Internships Available

We are seeking four interns to fill summer positions with our Marketing, Destination, and Development Teams. If you know a college-age student who is looking for a hands-on experience with the chamber, please send them our applications (available at the link below).

The positions are approximately 30 hours per week from May 27th - July 24th.

APPLICATIONS

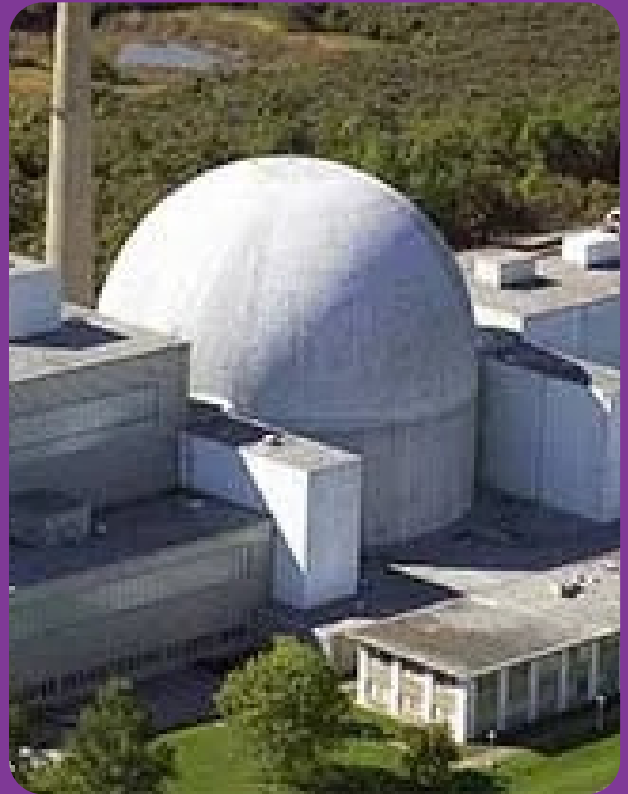
DEVELOPMENT NEWS

LAND AVAILABLE AT NASA *through Enhanced Use Lease Program*

NASA has announced it is inviting proposals to lease land parcels at the Neil Armstrong Test Facility, part of the NASA Glenn Research Center located in Erie County.

The Greater Sandusky Partnership, alongside local and regional partners, is supporting efforts to market the available land and provide information to organizations interested in leasing.

[LEARN MORE](#)



FIRST PROJECT OF 2026 *Through the Port Authority*

The Erie County Port Authority close on its first project of 2026: Phase I of the Battery Park redevelopment. Phase I includes approx. \$10 million in investment focused on environmental remediation, demolition and Brownfield preparation activities necessary to support future development on the site. The ECPA's Capital Lease Program will deliver an estimated \$218K in savings for Phase I.



This phase is a critical step toward transforming about 30 acres into a mixed-use destination that will include residential units, commercial space, parking infrastructure and enhanced marina amenities.



UPGRADES TO SUPPORT LEWCO

ODOT funding available for roadwork to support company operations

An incentive through the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided approximately \$100,000 to the City of Sandusky to support local manufacturer, LEWCO, Inc.

The funding will be used for roadway upgrades and repairs associated with ongoing operations.

[Learn more about LEWCO >>>](#)



BUSINESS OUTREACH

GSP Retention & Expansion Efforts

We have launched our 2026 Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) outreach initiative, aimed at strengthening relationships with local employers and proactively identifying opportunities for growth, workforce development and operational support. We are scheduling site visits and conversations to better understand *your* needs and opportunities as a business in the region. Planning an expansion?

TALK TO US!



SANDUSKY AREA SUMMER WORK TRAVEL COMMUNITY FORUM

SANDUSKY SUMMER WORK

Travel Community Forum

Every year our region welcomes thousands of seasonal workers from across the globe, through the J1 international exchange program.

Learn about this program, which countries we can expect to see students from this year, and how to make their experience memorable. Registration is FREE and open to anyone who would benefit from this information.

REGISTER NOW



free!

PARTY AT THE PIER + LANGE TRUST

SUMMER CONCERTS

**THURSDAYS @ 7PM
JACKSON STREET PIER**

Sandusky



GREATERSANDUSKY.COM/CONCERTS

PARTY AT THE PIER SUMMER CONCERTS

The band line up and schedule for Party at the Pier and Lange Trust summer concerts was announced! These are FREE concerts happening from June - July at Jackson Street Pier.

For more fun Sandusky events and updates, follow our program Destination Sandusky on Facebook, Instagram or TikTok

VIEW CONCERT SCHEDULE



SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 6

Huron Lake Front Market Returns

The Huron Lake Front Market is a vibrant, seasonal event featuring local authors, makers, growers, bakers and more.

Organized by GSP in collaboration with the City of Huron Parks and Recreation, the market takes place Saturday, June 6th from 9am - 3pm at Lake Front Park in Huron. This year will feature activities and games for folks of all ages to encourage community connection.



FOLLOW TO STAY IN TOUCH

Destination Huron & Sandusky

Curious about what's happening in the Sandusky or Huron communities? Our Destination programs missions are to highlight, celebrate and activate these two communities through marketing, placemaking and programming efforts.

Follow Destination Huron



Follow Destination Sandusky



Thank You

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS!



Catawba Island Club



IMMACULATE INTERIORS INC

COASTAL CABINET & FLOORING

HURON YACHT CLUB

GREAT LAKES GRINDERS

THE CRAWFORD INSURANCE GROUP LLC

HUETER TOLEDO, INC

GSP Member & Community Events, Announcements and Updates

April 2, 2026

Visibility & Promotional Opportunities with GSP...

Members can post events, announcements, job opportunities or deals through the Member Center. These posts are published directly on the [GSP website](#) under [Community Events](#), [Local Job Opportunities](#), [Deals & Discounts](#) or [Member Announcements](#).

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](#)!

[MEMBER CENTER GUIDE](#)

[MEMBER APPLICATION](#)



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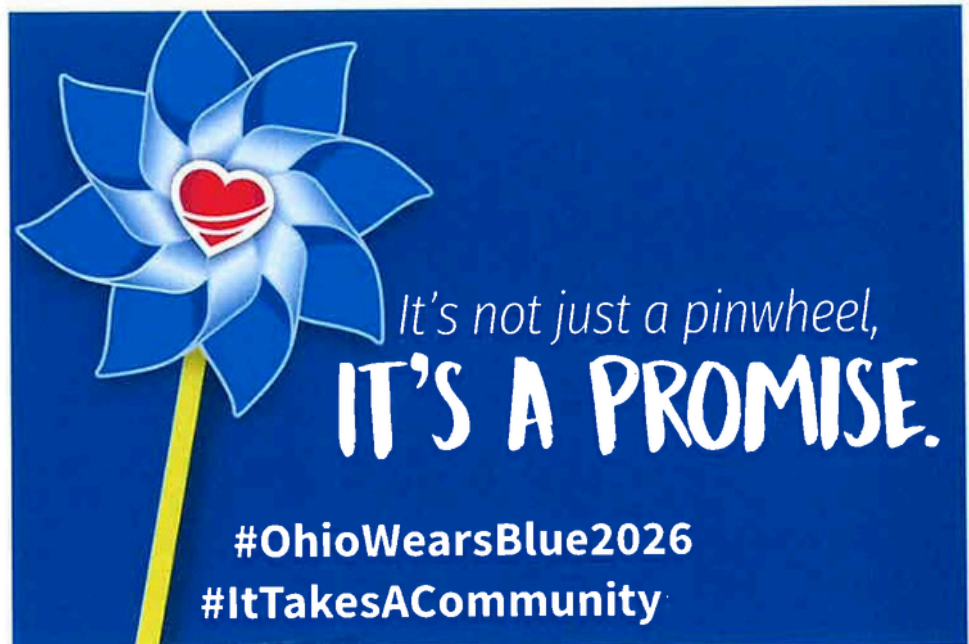
WEAR BLUE

Wednesday, April 8th 2026

Wear Blue is a statewide awareness campaign that takes place on the second Wednesday of every April, which is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The community is encouraged to wear blue that day to increase awareness and show support for preventing child abuse and neglect.

Take a photo on April 8th of you, your family, coworkers, or friends wearing blue. We invite you to post the photo on social media with these hashtags, **#OhioWearsBlue2026** and **#ItTakesACommunity** and to post/ share your photos on the Erie County Children Services Facebook page or submit them to Jackie.Bellamy@jfs.ohio.gov to be posted.

**Please note all photos will be shared publicly and by submitting a photo, you consent to having your photo shared on our Facebook page.*





UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

ALL MONTH LONG

April 13 - May 17: Friends of Huron Public Library Book Donation Drive
April 28: Ohio 250 Celebration - Armstrong Air & Space Museum

6

MON
APR

11:30 am: Mahjong Mondays
6:00 pm: The Great Railroad Strike in Ohio

7

TUE
APR

3:00 pm: Stitch Niche Crochet Club
5:30 pm: Backyard Conservation Mini Grant
6:30 pm: Family Storytime

8

WED
APR

6:00 pm: Adult Craft: Create Your Own
Scratch Out Poetry
6:30 pm: Euchre Night

9

THU
APR

12:00 pm: Estate Planning 101
4:00 pm: Girls Who Code Coding Club
6:00 pm: Intro to Medicare

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

GSP MEMBER & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join Erie MetroParks for our Wings Over Lake Erie Series as we celebrate the wonder of spring migration along the Lake Erie Shoreline and throughout Erie County.

We only have a limited number of binoculars so it will be first come first served.

WINGS OVER LAKE ERIE



We are specifically targeting Callery Pear, Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive, and Bush Honeysuckle. If you have one of these species on your property, you'll have a chance to get a free native plant in exchange for cutting down/removing the targeted invasive out of your yard.

INVASIVE BUYBACK



Mark your calendars! Osborn MetroPark in Huron will play host to the Earth Day Extravaganza Saturday, April 25. The event will run 11AM-3PM. Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

EARTH DAY EXTRAVAGANZA



Erie MetroParks and the Firelands Audubon Society are hosting the 5th Annual Ohio Wildlife Youth Art Show. It will showcase local artists from area schools.

ART CONTEST






SANDUSKY AREA SUMMER WORK TRAVEL COMMUNITY FORUM

in partnership with  **BridgeUSA**

MEETING

 **April 15, 2026**

 **10:00 am - 12:00 pm EST**

Learn about the BridgeUSA Summer Work Travel program!

- Program Updates
- Safety Best Practices
- Social Security Process
- Tax Tips
- Cultural Events
- Hear from Department of State, U.S. Visa Sponsors, and Community Support Group Leaders

[Register Now!](#)

Registration is required.



Help the Perkins PD Get a Drone!



AGSL Soten Drone

Sponsorship

- We are looking for 5-10 community businesses to partner with Leadership Erie County to accomplish our goal.

Goal:

- We are striving to raise \$25,000 to get the Perkins Police Department a necessary tool to improve citizen and officer safety.

Your support makes a difference.

Checks can be written to "Leadership Erie County"
Email Jstacey@cityofsandusky.com



SPONSOR LEVELS

1

Gold - \$5,000

- Name the Drone!
- Top spot on "Thank You" donation board
- Social Media Recognition **1 Business**

2

Silver - \$2,500

- Middle spot(s) on "Thank You" donation board
- Social Media Recognition **2 Businesses**

3

Bronze - \$1,000

- Social Media Recognition
- A spot on "Thank You" donation board **5 Businesses**

Descriptions

Thermal and night vision tools, extra batteries, carrying case, and a state-of-the-art drone will support safer operations and faster response in many situations. This investment protects officers and stretches tax-payer dollars.



AC SL Soten Drone



SCBBPW PRESENTS

Hats & Fedoras

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH



SATURDAY 05 | 09 | 2026

12:30 - 4:00P.M.

THE EMPORIUM

314 W. MARKET STREET, SANDUSKY

**BRUNCH
BUFFET**

**CHAIR
MASSAGES**

**BEST FEDORA
PRIZE**

**50/50
RAFFLES**



SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS



GSP MEMBER & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Elevating Rural

Creating a Stronger Economic
Environment for Rural America



OHIO RURAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Is your rural business ready for the next level? The Ohio Rural Business Initiative is a collaborative effort to bring resources and access to capital to rural-based small businesses in all sectors. Join us for this exclusive event to learn how the SBA and other agencies are working together to help you grow.

Why You Should Attend:

- Unlock Resources** : Understand exactly what tools the SBA and other agencies offer specifically for rural businesses.
- Access Funding** : Learn the step-by-step process of how your business can obtain the capital needed to expand.
- Grow YourNetwork** : Meet with officials, providers, and fellow small rural business owners.

Friday, May 29, 2026

10:00 AMtoNoon

96 S Washington Street

Tiffin, OH44883

Registration: <https://SBA-Ohio-Rural-Tiffin.eventbrite.com>

POC: Ray Graves, raymond.graves@sba.gov





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