

GROW
Licking County

Community
Improvement
Corporation

February 2026

Newsletter



Executive Director Update



Dear Partners, Investors, and Community Leaders,

I am now in my fourth month as Executive Director of GROW Licking County Community Improvement Corporation, and I continue to be energized by the opportunity to connect and engage with our partners, investors, and community stakeholders.

Through these conversations, I am continually reminded of the importance of GROW's mission to help facilitate business formation and expansion throughout Licking County, while ensuring our businesses and communities have a reliable partner to help them achieve success and overcome challenges. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue advancing our shared goals.

The past several months have been busy, productive, and extremely rewarding. Each day reinforces the importance of GROW serving as the "front door" to economic development opportunities in Licking County as we carry out our core priorities of business attraction, business retention and expansion, and workforce development.

Licking County and our communities have so much to offer businesses that are looking to expand, relocate, or launch new ventures. From shovel-ready development sites and move-in-ready buildings to outstanding educational, civic, recreational, and cultural amenities, our county provides a strong and welcoming environment for business growth. Just as importantly, we benefit from a collaborative, business-friendly ecosystem that continues to drive momentum and opportunity throughout our region.

It is truly an honor to serve in this role, and I am grateful to work alongside a dedicated Board of Directors who remain deeply committed to carrying out GROW's mission and priorities.

Be sure to keep an eye on your inbox, as we will be sending these newsletter updates on a monthly basis moving forward. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be a resource to you or your organization. I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Cameron Garczyk
Executive Director

New Marketing & Administrative Manager



In December, we were pleased to welcome Becca Morlan as the new Marketing & Administrative Manager for GROW Licking County Community Improvement Corporation. In her role, Becca manages GROW's marketing and communications efforts, including social media, branding, and website management. She also oversees event planning and provides administrative support to ensure efficient day-to-day operations of the organization.

Prior to joining GROW Licking County, Becca held marketing positions in both the business and nonprofit sectors. Her background includes managing digital marketing campaigns across email, social media, and e-commerce platforms; developing content to support events and promotional initiatives; and website management.

Becca holds a bachelor's degree in marketing from Northern Kentucky University and resides in Hebron, Ohio with her husband and son.

2026 GROW Board Leadership



Corey Alton



Jennifer Ellis-Brunn



Erin Grigsby



Amy Dell

With a new year, we also have new board leadership.

We are pleased to share that Corey Alton, Vice President of Commercial Loans at Park National Bank, will serve as our 2026 GROW Licking County Board Chairman. Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Director of Licking County Job and Family Services, will serve as 2026 Board Vice-Chair.

Additionally, Erin Grigsby, Vice President of Finance for the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, will continue her role as Board Treasurer, and Amy Dell, Program Officer at the Licking County Foundation will continue her role as Board Secretary.

Our 2025 Board Chairman Joseph Robertson will now serve as Immediate Past Chair. We thank Joseph for his leadership over the past year and look forward to his continued service on our Executive Committee!

2026 Board Meetings

The next GROW Licking County Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, at 12:00 p.m. at the Village of Hebron Municipal Complex, located at 934 W Main St, Hebron, OH 43025.

Our full 2026 board and committee meeting schedule can be found on our website. All meetings are public and you are welcome to attend.

[2026 Meeting Schedule](#)

2025 Investor Breakfast



On December 11th, we hosted our 2025 Investor Breakfast to show our appreciation for the many businesses, organizations and public partners whose support is critical to our organization's success.

We were honored to welcome JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef as our keynote speaker, who provided an update on Ohio's recent economic successes and shared insight into the exciting opportunities ahead. Executive Director Cameron Garczyk provided an organization update, 2025 review, and plans for 2026.

If you are interested in becoming an investor of GROW Licking County or want to learn more, contact Cameron Garczyk at Cameron@growlickingcounty.org.

[View our Current List of Investors!](#)

Licking County Childcare Forum



LOCAL LEADERS
LICKING COUNTY CHILDCARE FORUM

 **February 18, 2026**
10am-2pm \$25

 **The Reese Center**
1209 University Dr., Newark

Join us for a focused, solutions-oriented Childcare Forum addressing one of Licking County's most significant workforce needs.

The 2026 Licking County Childcare Forum—co-sponsored by GROW Licking County, the Licking County Chamber of Commerce, and OhioMeansJobs Licking County—will take place on February 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Reese Center.

Spots are still available! Attendees are welcome to attend all or a portion of the event.

This forum will bring together agencies, partners, and business and community leaders for a focused discussion on childcare and the local and statewide initiatives underway to support families, businesses, and providers in Licking County.

You can register by going to the Chamber's website.

[Register Here](#)

Here are just some of the many successes we saw in 2025!

Boeing

**\$50M+ Investment
(Heath)**

Lease extended at the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center through 2038 (option through 2043)

Investment supports advanced aerospace and defense maintenance, repair, overhaul (MRO) and manufacturing operations.

Kansai Helios

**\$20M+ Manufacturing
Facility (Johnstown)**

New coatings production facility.

48 new jobs by 2030; project quadruples U.S. production capacity and advances sustainability innovation.

Hims & Hers

**\$200M+ Investment
(New Albany)**

New facility supporting fulfillment, lab testing, and pharmacy operations.

Expected to create up to 400 new jobs and double the company's footprint.

**PCS / Prudential
Cleanroom Services
\$35M Facility (Heath)**

New 68,000-sq.-ft. cleanroom laundry facility on 9 acres.

Opened September 2025; 80+ new full-time jobs created.

**Newark Arcade
\$20M Redevelopment
(Newark)**

Renovation of 70,000-sq.-ft. mixed-use retail and residential space.

Reopened following a six-year restoration, strengthening downtown revitalization.

**Axium Packaging
\$45M Expansion
(Jersey Township)**

New 300,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility.

70 new jobs created and 1,200+ existing positions retained.

Amgen

**\$900M+ Investment
(New Albany)**

Expansion represents a \$900 million investment in the Columbus Region.

Increases Amgen's total Central Ohio investment to over \$1.4 billion.

Expected to create approximately 350 new jobs, bringing total regional employment to around 750.

Microsoft Data Centers



As part of their long-term investment in Licking County, Microsoft is now moving forward with early site preparation for two of their Ohio data centers.

These activities, including mass grading at their data center campuses in the City of Heath and the Village of Hebron, are scheduled to begin in this year. Construction is currently underway at their campus in the City of New Albany.

Microsoft stated: "We look forward to continued collaboration with the state, local governments, and organizations in Licking County as we build datacenter campuses that reflect our values of sustainability, innovation, and community partnership."

Microsoft has launched a "Community-First AI Infrastructure" initiative built around five commitments for communities hosting Microsoft-owned and operated data centers: (1) prevent residential electricity bill impacts by paying incremental grid costs through rate design and infrastructure funding, (2) cut water intensity and become "water positive" locally by replenishing more than it uses, (3) train and hire local workers for construction and operations, (4) pay full property taxes to strengthen local public services, and (5) invest in AI education, small-business skilling, and local nonprofits.

[Learn More](#)

New Hire at Intel



Recently, Intel announced that Ted Geer will serve as the company's new director of state government affairs for Ohio. He comes to Intel from the Ohio Department of Development.

Mr. Geer has experience working with Intel and their "Ohio One" site here in Licking County. Two months after Intel announced it chose the site in January 2022, he joined One Columbus as the economic development organization's manager for the semiconductor sector, leading efforts to attract suppliers and otherwise develop the industry in Central Ohio.

"His deep experience in both semiconductors and the Ohio community will be invaluable as we continue to advance partnerships and initiatives that enable our shared prosperity

and long-term success in the region," said a statement from Intel to Columbus Business First.

New Licking Regional Water Tower



In November, Licking Regional Water District and Licking County leaders unveiled a new water tower that extends service to other parts of the county and that they expect will support future growth in Jersey Township.

The tower sits near Patterson Road and along State Route 161 in Pataskala. It holds a 750,000-gallon tank that is expected to improve water pressure, fire protection and service reliability around the highway corridor, according to the Water District.

Crews painted the Jersey Township name and Licking County on the tower, which is visible from the highway. It will serve residents in Jersey, St. Albans and Harrison Townships and Pataskala.

[Learn More](#)

Licking County Transit Ridership & Ballot Levy



We were pleased to see our partners at **Licking County Transit** had a 117% increase in ridership in 2025—the highest level since 2015!

This achievement highlights the power of strong leadership and strategic investment in transit that supports our workforce and residents as well as business and community growth. We're proud to celebrate this milestone and the positive impact it brings to Licking County.

Voters will decide in May whether to approve a tax levy for Licking County Transit that would deliver more funds to the agency during an increase in demand for its services. The ballot issue seeks a 0.15% sales and use tax for 10 years for the agency to “preserve and improve transit services and ensure long-term service availability to support access to transportation.”

Licking County Transit Director Matt Allison stated: “The need is happening now – the demand for public transit in Licking County is growing rapidly.” “It’s been driven by an increase in population, with a large amount of those being seniors. There are also workforce transportation needs, access to education and increased transit ridership throughout the county.”

[Learn More](#)

Check out our available properties!

The GROW Licking County team provides site selection services to professional consultants and business executives considering expanding or relocating to Licking County communities.



[View Properties](#)

Did You Know?

Licking County is home to the largest new building lease signed in the Columbus region in the past five years. Freight shipping and trucking company, JBS Logistics, was behind the largest move-in in the market when it occupied a 1.3 million-SF distribution center at Pataskala's 70 East Logistics Park in July.



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