

March 2026

Newsletter



Microsoft Data Center Groundbreakings



Microsoft recently held groundbreaking ceremonies for its new data center campuses in Heath and Hebron, marking another major milestone for Licking County's growing technology sector. The projects represent a significant investment in cloud computing infrastructure and will support hundreds of construction jobs during development, along with roughly 20 - 50 highly skilled technical positions in each of multiple planned buildings once complete.

The Hebron campus includes roughly 200 acres west of St Rt 79 and has concept plans for up to six data center buildings, while the Heath site covers more than 200 acres near the Thornwood Dr. area with potential for multiple buildings developed in phases.

[Learn More](#)

COTC Licking County Promise



Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) is now offering free college tuition to eligible students through the Licking County Promise Program — helping more local students access in-demand career training right here at home.

COTC's Promise programs ensure that tuition is fully covered for county residents who meet certain criteria and have annual household incomes under \$100,000 through a combination of institutional support, federal and state financial aid, and private scholarships for eligible students.

The college hosted an event Feb. 27 announcing the program. "Today is a commitment to our students, families and future of Licking County," Central Ohio Technical College President John Berry said at the event. "For generations, education has been the single most powerful driver of economic mobility, yet for too many talented students, cost becomes a barrier before they ever step into the classroom. We believe that barrier should not be what defines our students' future."

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Intel Project Update

The Intel logo, consisting of the word "intel" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.

Intel reported that it spent \$1.5 billion on construction in 2025 for its Ohio One semiconductor manufacturing campus in New Albany, according to its annual report submitted to the Ohio Department of Development.

Since construction began in late 2022, Intel has invested approximately \$5.26 billion toward the planned \$28 billion semiconductor manufacturing complex. An additional \$1.75 billion in future contractual commitments brings the current total project commitments to roughly \$7 billion.

Under the current timeline, Intel anticipates the first fabrication facility (“fab”) could become operational in 2030 or 2031, with the second fab expected to follow in 2032. Intel noted that the project remains a key part of its long-term U.S. manufacturing strategy. In the report, Ohio Site Manager Jim Evers emphasized that growing demand for artificial intelligence and advanced computing continues to drive the need for semiconductor manufacturing capacity.

Construction of the campus will continue to be paced with customer demand, while remaining central to Intel’s future U.S. semiconductor production plans.

Licking County Childcare Forum Recap



On Feb. 19th, community leaders, employers, educators, and childcare providers gathered at Central Ohio Technical College for the Licking County Childcare Forum to discuss one of our region’s most critical workforce challenges — access to affordable, quality childcare.

The forum brought together stakeholders from across Licking County to explore:

- Strengthening the early childhood education workforce pipeline
- Understanding current childcare capacity and expansion needs
- State and local initiatives supporting families and providers
- Employer-led childcare solutions to support working families
- Strategies to improve kindergarten readiness and long-term outcomes

As Licking County continues to grow, ensuring access to reliable childcare is essential to supporting working families, expanding workforce participation, and sustaining long-term economic development across our communities. Thank you to our many sponsors, partners, panelists, and attendees for contributing to this important conversation.

Welcome New Investors!

Wilson, Shannon & Snow

is a full-service CPA firm providing tax preparation, tax planning, accounting, and financial reporting services for businesses, individuals, and nonprofit organizations across Licking County and Central Ohio. The firm works with clients to support compliance, improve financial management, and provide strategic tax guidance to help organizations and individuals plan for long-term financial success.

Reese, Pyle, Meyer, PLL

is the largest and oldest law firm in Licking County, with a long history of serving businesses, organizations, and individuals across the region. With roots dating back to the late 19th century, the firm continues its tradition of providing trusted legal counsel and community leadership in Licking County and Central Ohio.

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

is a nationally recognized law firm headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, with offices across the United States and in London. The firm provides legal services in areas such as corporate law, economic development incentives, real estate, litigation, tax, and public policy, and frequently advises companies and communities on major development projects and business expansion in Ohio and beyond.

[View Our Current Investors](#)

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

Recent Land Bank Project



The Licking County Land Bank recently led demolition efforts at the former BP station property located at 390 East Main Street in Granville. The Licking County Land

Reutilization Corporation received \$250,000 in state funding through the Ohio Department of Development to support redevelopment of the site. The project will help eliminate blight along a key corridor in Granville while preparing the property for future commercial redevelopment and community investment.

The Licking County Pipeline Project



The Energy Cooperative recently announced The Licking County Pipeline Project, a planned 24-mile natural gas transmission pipeline designed to strengthen energy infrastructure and support the region's rapid growth. The project is intended to increase natural gas supply capacity, improve reliability for residents and businesses, and support major economic development projects in central and western Licking County.

The roughly \$150 million project will be fully funded by an energy generator, meaning cooperative members will not pay for construction while still benefiting from increased system capacity and long-term reliability. The pipeline will also help power new large-scale developments, including energy generation facilities serving data centers, while reducing strain on the regional electric grid.

"We believe this project will move forward. Our belief is if someone is going to do this in our backyard, we want it to be us." — *Todd Ware, President & CEO at The Energy Cooperative*

[Learn More](#)

Guest Insight: The Power of Getting Involved

Licking County is growing, and if you're reading this, you're part of that story. New businesses are arriving, existing ones are expanding, and our workforce is deepening. But the quality of a community is about more than economic output. It's about whether people feel connected, supported, and proud of where they live. That's where Licking County's nonprofit sector plays an irreplaceable role.

From arts and culture to conservation, animal welfare to youth development, our county is home to a remarkable network of nonprofits that enrich daily life and make this a place people genuinely want to put down roots. Businesses, both those who've been here for decades and those who just arrived, have a powerful role to play in supporting that ecosystem.

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[Senior Levy Scholarship](#)

Announcement at The Dawes Arboretum



The Dawes Arboretum has announced plans for a new \$17 million Welcome Center, a major project that will enhance the visitor experience and expand educational programming for the thousands of guests who visit each year.

The 28,000-square-foot, two-story facility will serve as a new gateway for visitors and will feature expanded amenities including a café, larger gift shop and plant sales area, improved restrooms, community meeting and event space, and indoor gathering areas with views of the Arboretum's landscape. The building will be designed with sustainability in mind, targeting LEED and SITES certification, and construction is expected to begin in summer 2026. The project will also allow the current visitor center to be transformed into a Discovery Center, expanding hands-on learning and educational opportunities.

[Learn More](#)

Hebron Launches CIC



The Village of Hebron has launched the Hebron Trailblazers Community Improvement Corporation, focused on strengthening the local economy and supporting businesses through community-driven initiatives. The CIC will partner with the village to enhance quality of life while bringing together business owners, residents, and community leaders committed to preserving Hebron's "heart, heritage, and small-town pride."

[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?

Between 2019 and 2024, Licking County recorded the highest percentage increase in average annual wages among the central Ohio region's 11 counties at 34.2%!

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