



Community
Improvement
Corporation

August 2026

Newsletter



Ohio Named CNBC's Top State for Business



Ohio has earned the No. 1 spot in CNBC's **Top States for Business** rankings, the first time in the 20-year history of the rankings that our state has claimed the top position. This national recognition reflects years of strategic investment in infrastructure, workforce development, innovation, and a business climate that continues to attract companies from around the world. It's further proof that Ohio is leading the nation in economic development.

Licking County is proud to be a driving force behind that success. As one of the country's premier destinations for business investment, Licking County continues to attract growth across advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, aerospace, logistics, technology, and life sciences. Companies choose our community for its strategic location, talented workforce, strong public-private partnerships, and commitment to long-term success.

Ohio is leading the nation and Licking County is helping lead Ohio!

[Read the Article Here](#)

GROW Hosts Investor & Partner Luncheon



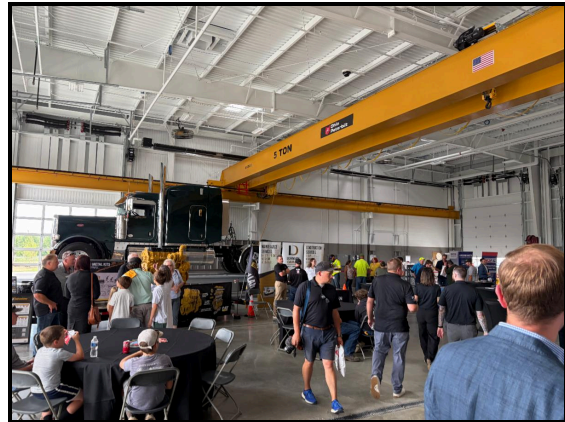
Grow Licking County recently welcomed investors and partners for a luncheon featuring updates on countywide development, the organization's progress toward its strategic priorities, and an overview of the ongoing strategic planning process.

The event also featured a keynote presentation from Steve Stivers, President and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, who shared insights on Ohio's economic momentum,

the state's competitive advantages, and the important role Licking County continues to play in the state's continued success.

We extend our sincere thanks to Denison University for graciously hosting the event and to the nearly 100 public and private sector partners who joined us. Your continued investment, collaboration, and commitment are essential to advancing economic growth and opportunity throughout Licking County.

Ohio Peterbilt Celebrates Grand Opening in Etna Township



Grow Licking County was proud to celebrate the grand opening of Ohio Peterbilt's new \$20 million, 82,000-square-foot facility in Etna Township, an investment that will create 150 new jobs.

The new dealership will support careers in sales, customer service, diesel mechanics, and skilled technical trades while enhancing service for customers across Central Ohio and the Midwest. Strategically located along the I-70 corridor, the facility is designed to reduce downtime and keep commercial fleets moving efficiently.

The state-of-the-art dealership features a 25-bay full-service shop, a central parts distribution center, expansive office and retail space, and driver-focused amenities that enhance comfort and convenience.

The grand opening brought together local, state, and federal leaders to recognize this significant milestone and the positive economic impact of Ohio Peterbilt's investment.

As the first of several planned investments by Ohio Machinery Co., the parent company of Ohio Peterbilt and Ohio CAT, this project reflects continued confidence in Licking County as a destination for business growth and workforce development.

We are excited to welcome Ohio Peterbilt to Licking County and look forward to the company's continued success in our community.

GROW Board Tours New Albany International Business Park



The Grow Licking County Community Improvement Corporation Board of Directors and staff recently toured the New Albany International Business Park to gain a firsthand look at the scale of development taking place across one of the nation's fastest-growing economic corridors.

The tour highlighted the continued progress of the Intel Ohio One campus, along with the extensive investment, infrastructure, and long-term planning that is driving growth throughout the business park, much of which is located in Licking County.

Seeing these transformative projects up close reinforced the critical role New Albany and Licking County play in attracting investment, creating jobs, and supporting Ohio's continued economic momentum.

We extend our sincere thanks to the City of New Albany for hosting the tour and sharing their expertise. Strong partnerships like these are essential as we work together to foster economic opportunity and build a prosperous future for our region.

Celebrating Licking County Agriculture: Made and Grown Here



Agriculture remains a cornerstone of Licking County's economy, heritage, and quality of life. From crop and livestock production to agritourism, food processing, and value-added products, the industry supports local businesses, creates jobs, and helps preserve the character of our community.

Agriculture is also Ohio's number one industry, contributing more than \$105 billion to the state's economy and producing more than 200 commercial crops. Programs like **Ohio Proud**, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, make it easy for consumers to identify products that are grown, raised, or processed in Ohio, helping families support local farmers and food producers while keeping dollars invested in Ohio communities.

We're proud of Licking County's strong agricultural roots and encourage everyone to support local growers and producers whenever possible. Whether you're visiting a family farm, shopping at a local market, or enjoying fresh seasonal products, every purchase strengthens our local economy and helps sustain one of our county's most important industries.

When you shop, look for the Ohio Proud logo as a simple way to support Ohio-grown and Ohio-made products and the hardworking farmers and businesses behind them.

We are grateful to have 15 Ohio Proud companies in Licking County, including:

- Barney's Frathouse Chiles — Gratiot
- Borrowed Land Farms — Newark
- Branstool Orchards — Utica
- Brother Veterans LLC — Pataskala
- Field to Fork Cattle Co LLC — Newark
- Granville Farmers Market — Granville
- J & K Specialty Foods, LLC — Alexandria
- Lynd Fruit Farm Inc. — Pataskala
- MRG Farm — Hanover
- Oliver Farms Ohio LLC — Thornville
- Papilio Candles LLC — Pataskala
- Ruth & Boaz Coffee — Newark
- Twin Oaks Lavender Farms LLC — Hebron
- Velvet Ice Cream Company — Utica
- Wellness129, LLC — Pataskala

Supporting the Next Generation of Skilled Trades



Grow Licking County was proud to once again sponsor the **Jill of All Trades** event at C-TEC, an inspiring program that introduces young women to the wide range of career opportunities available in the skilled trades.

By providing hands-on experiences and connecting students with industry professionals, the event helps build awareness of rewarding career pathways while strengthening the future workforce for our region.

Be sure to check out the event highlight video to see the energy, enthusiasm, and impact of this year's program!

[Watch the Video Here](#)

Investor Spotlight



City of Newark

Founded in 1802, Newark has grown from a small frontier settlement into the thriving county seat of Licking County and one of Central Ohio's most dynamic communities.

Throughout its history, the city has been shaped by innovation, a strong work ethic, and industries ranging from manufacturing and glass production to agriculture and commerce.

Today, Newark is home to a diverse mix of businesses, entrepreneurs, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and a talented workforce. With Ohio State Newark, Central Ohio Technical College, premier healthcare systems, affordable housing, and a welcoming business environment, the city continues to attract investment while offering an exceptional quality of life.

Newark's vibrant downtown, historic courthouse, locally owned businesses, and strong sense of community reflect both its rich heritage and its bright future. Through the collaborative efforts of Newark Development Partners, the City of Newark, Licking County, local foundations, and area businesses, the community continues to advance economic development, revitalize neighborhoods, support housing initiatives, and create new opportunities for residents and employers alike.

As Newark continues to grow, it remains a community where businesses can succeed, families can thrive, and innovation is building on more than two centuries of history.

[Visit the City of Newark's Website](#)

Check out our available buildings and sites!

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 3,277 businesses with at least one employee.

Investors & Partners

Platinum Investors



Gold Investors



Silver Investors

- OhioMeansJobs Licking County
- Licking County Chamber of Commerce
- Village of Granville
- MedBen
- Huntington National Bank
- Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease LLP
- Leeward Renewable Energy
- TruCore Federal Credit Union
- C-TEC
- Denison University
- Shai Hess Commercial Real Estate
- Southgate Corporation
- First Federal Savings

Bronze Investors

- Pataskala Area Chamber of Commerce
- Granville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Buckeye Lake Region Corp
- Power Connect
- Terracon
- Verdantas
- ADR
- American Structurepoint
- Bricker Graydon Wyatt
- Legat Architects
- Wilson, Shannon & Snow
- Monroe Township
- Union Township
- Granville Township
- Matesich Distributing Co
- MPW
- North Valley Bank
- AEP Ohio
- OPUS
- Project Architecture LTD. Project Construction
- Reese Pyle Meyer PLL



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