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# Ashland Economic Development Newsletter

October 2005

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## Greetings!

Thank you for subscribing to the Ashland Economic Development Newsletter!

## Public Meeting Notice

Ashland Economic Development is finalizing the details of two USEPA grant applications. Each is for \$200,000 and will help the City plan for redevelopment of brownfields. The applications will be available for review in the Loudonville and Ashland public libraries during the first week of November through the end of the year.

The meeting is scheduled for **Monday, November 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of the Municipal Building.**

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### The Innovation Ohio Loan Fund

The Innovation Ohio Loan Fund (IOF) can finance up to 75% of project's allowable cost to a maximum of \$5 million and a minimum of \$250,000. Interest rates are fixed at or below private sector loans for comparable levels of risk.

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### The Research and Development Investment Loan Fund

This fund provides assistance in the form of a low- interest loan, partnered with a tax credit. Businesses meeting requirements of job creation, repayments, commitment to R&D activities, etc., are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar credit against their Ohio tax liability, equal to the amount of principal and interest repaid on the loan.

Eligible projects will undertake research to discover and/or develop new or improved products, processes, techniques, formulas or inventions.

## Congratulations to the 2005 Mayor's Golden Oak Winners



The Golden Oak Award is given annually by the Mayor of Ashland to individuals or organizations that have made great strides in improving the economic climate, quality of life and/or pride in Ashland. The award recognizes the foresight, diligence and unselfishness of individuals or organizations who contribute to new growth, strengthen the roots and/or improve the overall community of Ashland.

The "Golden" refers back to the earlier "Golden Rule Award" and symbolizes the unselfishness and commitment to community exemplified in the recipient. The "Oak" symbolizes the growth, strength and life that can be enjoyed when members of a community contribute to its overall well being.

This year, the Mayor's Golden Oak award was given to Packaging Corporation of America, Ball Bounce and Sport and the Ashland County Fair Board. Each recipient was recognized for their unique contributions to the Ashland community.

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## MAGF Corner



### **Mohican Adventures chosen as MAGF Business of the Year**

*By: Jim Brewer  
Loudonville Times  
Editor*

In the third year of its Business of the Year program, the Mohican Area Growth Foundation Inc. has selected

Mohican Adventures as the 2005 Business of the Year for the Mohican Area.

"We are recognizing Doug and Patty Shannon of Mohican Adventures for their commitment to the future of our community through their ongoing investment in their business, and for the outstanding way they promote our area in a professional fashion," said Martin Irvine, chief consultant of MAGF, a local non profit economic development organization.

"Doug and Patty have long been leaders in our local recreational industry, folks who innovate and grow their business constantly, and folks who support other recreational enterprises in the area by sharing their promotional and entrepreneurial expertise," Jim Gribble, MAGF president, added. "As a fellow person involved in business that cater to the visitors of the area, I am very proud to work alongside the Shannon's in promoting the Mohican area."

Previous MAGF Businesses of the Year are, in 2003, MCI Inc., Loudonville; and in 2004, Step2 Corp., Perrysville.

### **"Mohican Winter Fest 2006" comes to Loudonville**

*by Jerrilynn Lekrone*

Thanks to the combined efforts of The Loudonville Mohican Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Mohican Area Growth Foundation, The Mabel and Hugo Young Foundation and the Loudonville Mohican Chamber of Commerce, Inc. We will be hosting one of the most popular winter events around. We are very fortunate to have Olympic Ice Carver Aaron Costic help host the event. The Winter Fest will be held starting on Friday Jan. 13th and run till Jan. 15th in Loudonville. Ice carving demonstrations, along with speed

The Packaging Corporation of America (PCA), Ashland was established in 1978. They manufacture corrugated containers and multi-color point of purchase displays. Locally, PCA employs approximately 180 people. In recent years they have added more than 30 jobs to the community and invested over \$8 million in machinery and equipment. They have recently won the top seller award among all PCA divisions. PCA employees make important contributions to the community including United Way, the Community Improvement Corporation and the Hospital Board.

Local management of the former Hedstrom Corp. purchased the assets of the ball division to form Ball Bounce & Sport. This retained 100 jobs in Ashland and created 10 - 15 by bringing the sales team to the local level. The move also kept the former Hedstrom facility on Jacobson Avenue from becoming an empty building. The building now houses custom molded industrial production and staff.

Members of the Ashland County Fair Board and Secretary Terry Lash work tirelessly for the Ashland County Fair. They also devote a tremendous amount of time and energy to bringing other events to the County Fairgrounds. This includes horse shows, motorcycle events, auctions, etc. These events bring visitors to our County who spend money and contribute to the local economy. The efforts of the Fair Board also perpetuate our way of life through their agricultural programs.

Past winners of the Mayor's Golden Oak Award includes BookMasters, Jerry Baker, Reineke Company, Ashland Precision

carving competitions, and displays will be set up on the sidewalks of our quaint downtown village. There will also be ice sculptures in Central Park, The Mohican State Park, and The Wolf Creek Pine Run Grist Mill and at Mohican Adventures. There will also be ice skating in Central Park, along with a winter hike at the Mohican State Park. And lots more winter activities to be scheduled. If you wish to sponsor an ice sculpture (or have a sculpture carved with your business logo on it), the sponsorship cost is \$200.00, and you may do so by contacting Jerrilynn at the office at 419-994-4789.

**[For more information from the Mohican Area visit the Loudonville Mohican Chamber website](#)**

### Featured Building

The 83,552 square foot space formerly occupied by Kmart will soon be converted to warehouse/flexible space, available for lease at 1.00 per square foot per year. Terra Marketing out of Phoenix, AZ



recently purchased the 110,656 square foot plaza and has begun working with Ashland Economic Development to market the Kmart space to the industrial community.

**[For Additional Information...](#)**

### Featured Site

This 3.69 acre site adjacent to the Ashland Archway plant is a unique opportunity for developers and/or businesses looking for a great location. The



site is the current home of Ashland Garden and Gifts and includes a 4100 sq.ft. retail building, a 3360 sq.ft. shade house and two 2100 sq.ft. storage buildings. This entire package of land and buildings, including all inventory and existing accounts, can be purchased for a negotiable \$543,000. Buyers can also buy the company's larger

Tooling and First Merit Bank.

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equipment (pick-up trucks and landscaping equipment) for an additional \$226,000.

The site is actually composed of two tax parcels. The rear 2.5 acres has excellent access to Seddon Court. Consequently, many development scenarios are possible on this land zoned M-1 Light Industrial. The owners are interested in discussing all available options, including partnering to demolish existing buildings. Please contact Ashland Economic Development to learn more.

**[For information on additional sites](#)**

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