

# Linking food, health, work and how it helps community



Phillip L. Parker  
CAE, CCE president & CEO

I’ve been blessed with opportunities to write and speak about our Dayton-area workforce on numerous occasions. We have a great workforce in our region, but it is not without its challenges.

The Midwest boasts a strong work ethic, a sense of work loyalty and responsibility, and an understanding of how a good job can morph into a solid career and a lifestyle that can improve one’s family and personal life.

But we suffer from some of the same challenges faced by many other urban communities. For one, we don’t have enough of the skilled workers we need for our own area businesses. We are making advances – with a number of positive initiatives that will help us “grow

and retain our own.” This is a meaningful strategy that is ongoing and one that must be sustained year after year.

Along the way we have been met by other challenges to our economy that one would think might surely not exist in midwestern America. One is food – good nutrition – the health of our workforce and how that, too, relates to the needs of our employers. During the last two years, many of us have watched certain geographical sections of our communities lose their ability to retain or add retail or wholesale food services that are conveniently located around much of our working population.

One might say to themselves, “Why fret? What’s the big deal? I’ve driven miles to my grocer my whole life.” But realistically, some of us don’t have the same transportation resources many others have. Even with an active urban transit system, that service may not be able to conveniently serve every block or every citizen in every neighborhood.

Enter a fairly new and exciting initiative gaining

ground in one of our geographic “food deserts.” This future co-op food market, the Gem City Market, plans to be a strategically located, full-service grocery store based along the Salem Avenue corridor. It could serve significant populations who need access to fresh foods and good nutrition that may not currently exist. This void of access to nutritional food affects our children, who will grow up to be our future workers and leaders in our community.

If it isn’t already too obvious, let me try to connect the dots for any who might be asking themselves why they should support this initiative for better access to convenient, fresh, nutritional food. Our employers need good workers; workers need to be healthy in order to be effective at work; and, good, fresh food and produce are vital to the health and well-being of our children, families and the elderly as well as our working breadwinners.

Nutritious food translates to optimal health which is needed for our workforce

to be efficient and effective every day in their jobs.

This new co-op food source, if supported by our community, is scheduled to open by 2019. It will not be the panacea to this challenge, but it will certainly be part of the solution to one more of the challenges we face in our urban community. I, for one, will advocate for its success and support it through our business community employers and by our elected leaders.

Sure – this may seem like it’s supporting businesses’ self-enlightened interests. Well, maybe it is. But little will be sacrificed if we can find ways in which we can all achieve these basic goals. For me, I can easily connect the dots from food to health to work.

If you want to help, contact the Gem City Market at [www.gemcitymarket.com](http://www.gemcitymarket.com). I am certain they would welcome your corporate and/or individual advocacy and support in their efforts to eliminate a local food desert and help our citizens who are eager to succeed.

## Calendar of events

Register for all events at [DaytonChamber.org](http://DaytonChamber.org).

■ **Generation Dayton Membership 101**, Feb. 26, 5:30-7 p.m., Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, 1435 Cincinnati St., Suite 300, Dayton. Topic: Learn what Generation Dayton is all about

■ **Generation Dayton Professional Development**, Feb. 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., League of Women Voters, Talbott

Tower, 131 N. Ludlow St., #1208, Dayton. Topic: Where have all the voters gone? Speaker: League of Women Voters

■ **The School of Advertising Art Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening**, March 2, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., SAA, 1725 E. David Road, Kettering

■ **Dayton Business Hall of Fame**, March 8, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Mandalay, 700 E. River Road, Moraine

■ **Breakfast Briefing**, March 9, 8-9 a.m., Dayton Racquet Club, 40 N. Main St., Dayton. Topic: Update on Levitt Pavilion

■ **“The Wonders of China” Chamber Trip Briefing**, March 13, noon-1 p.m., Dayton Convention Center, 22 E. Fifth St., Room 208, Dayton. Topic: Learn how to join the chamber on a trip to China in November

■ **Marketing and Sales Strategies in a New World**,

March 15, 7:30-9 a.m., Dayton Metro Library, main branch, 215 E. Third St., Dayton

■ **Safety Breakfast with the Experts**, March 15, 8-9 a.m., Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton. Topic: Using personal protective equipment

■ **2018 Human Resources Forum**, March 22, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Dayton, 33 E. Fifth St., Dayton

## Economic indicators

### Sales Tax Collections

| County       | Current Rate | Oct 2017      | Oct 2016      | 12 Mos Change | YTD 2017       | YTD 2016       | YTD Change |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Butler       | 0.75%        | \$ 3,493,549  | \$ 3,690,953  | -5.35%        | \$ 36,712,699  | \$ 36,744,641  | -0.09%     |
| Clark        | 1.50%        | \$ 1,970,475  | \$ 2,537,504  | -22.35%       | \$ 21,417,632  | \$ 21,594,118  | -0.82%     |
| Darke        | 1.50%        | \$ 735,988    | \$ 737,030    | -0.14%        | \$ 7,514,429   | \$ 7,410,981   | 1.40%      |
| Greene       | 1.00%        | \$ 2,179,938  | \$ 2,329,900  | -6.44%        | \$ 22,774,941  | \$ 22,577,081  | 0.88%      |
| Miami        | 1.25%        | \$ 1,448,402  | \$ 1,447,591  | 0.06%         | \$ 15,267,150  | \$ 15,023,378  | 1.62%      |
| Montgomery   | 1.00%        | \$ 6,226,932  | \$ 7,001,460  | -11.06%       | \$ 67,998,060  | \$ 70,102,817  | -3.00%     |
| Preble       | 1.50%        | \$ 429,418    | \$ 483,686    | -11.22%       | \$ 4,855,008   | \$ 4,891,162   | -0.74%     |
| Warren       | 1.00%        | \$ 3,246,350  | \$ 3,250,590  | -0.13%        | \$ 33,764,974  | \$ 32,769,567  | 3.04%      |
| Region Total |              | \$ 19,731,052 | \$ 21,478,713 | -8.14%        | \$ 210,304,893 | \$ 211,113,744 | -0.38%     |

Source: [http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax\\_analysis/tax\\_data\\_series/sales\\_and\\_use/publications\\_tds\\_sales/\\$1M0116.aspx](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/tax_analysis/tax_data_series/sales_and_use/publications_tds_sales/$1M0116.aspx)

### Residential Home Sales

|                         | Oct '17       | Oct '16       | %Change | YTD '17         | YTD '16         | %Change |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Number of Homes Sold    | 1443          | 1423          | 1.41%   | 13817           | 13660           | 1.15%   |
| Total Home Sales        | \$223,331,789 | \$214,763,260 | 3.99%   | \$2,342,944,306 | \$2,011,247,359 | 7.22%   |
| Average Sale Price (\$) | \$154,769     | \$150,923     | 2.55%   | \$156,074       | \$147,236       | 6.00%   |

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales for October 2017

## Restaurant

continued from D1

excellent service and serving great food.”

The Florentine is open from 4 p.m. to midnight Wednesday through Sunday, closed Monday and Tuesday.

“The kitchen ‘closes’ at 9 p.m., but that is subject to how busy we are with a late-night menu that is offered after 9 p.m.,” Vanden Berg said. Reservations are accepted but not required.

Dinner specials will be offered daily. The menu keeps many of the favorites that the Florentine has served for years, and adds a few new twists.

Appetizers include Bacon-wrapped Prawns, Buffalo Tenders, a Veggie Platter with house-made Tzatziki and Hummus, Artichoke & Spinach Dip and Bacon-wrapped Jalapenos. Salad options include Caesar, Cobb and a Chopped Salad. Tomato Bisque and French Onion Soups are available.

Sandwiches include a lightly fried Orange Roughy with dill aioli, Mushroom &



The Florentine Hotel in Germantown is open from 4 p.m. to midnight Wednesday through Sunday. Dinner specials will be offered daily with many favorites staying around and some twists added.

Merlot Burger, Buffalo Bleu Burger, Bruschetta Chicken and Ultimate Grilled Cheese.

Entrees include Shrimp Scampi Florentine, Pan-Roasted Orange Roughy, Herb-crusted Salmon, Pork Belly Mac & Cheese, and steak options including New York Strip, Ribeye and Petite Filet Mignon. An extensive wines-by-the-glass list includes five whites, six reds and three sparklers. A dessert menu and a kids menu are available.

Alsip and Vanden Berg said

last month that they wanted to make it clear their stewardship of The Florentine won’t in any way diminish its historic nature.

“We love this building, and we love Germantown,” Vanden Berg said. “We intend to preserve the historic charm of the building. We want to help bring it back to its heyday.”

In their 2007 book “A Taste of Ohio History: A Guide to Historic Eateries and Their Recipes,” authors Debbie Nunley and Karen Jane Elliott

note that the Florentine “has withstood the passage of time.”

“That ornate iron balcony, fabricated at the ironworks in the Oregon District of nearby Dayton, still stands today. In fact, the entire structure looks almost identical to its earlier days. The barn-red clapboard exterior trimmed in taupe looks like something you’d find on the set of an old Western. I kept expecting Marshal Dillon and Miss Kitty to come walking out the door.”

## BUSINESS

### BUSINESS PEOPLE

#### GOVERNMENT

### Welcome Dayton names coordinator

The Dayton City Commission announces Monica Harris is the newly hired coordinator for Welcome Dayton.

Harris brings extensive experience relevant to Dayton’s immigrant friendly city initiative, having served as coordinator of a multi-cultural community health project and as manager of a workforce development and college success program.

A New York City native, Harris was born to immigrants from Taiwan and interned with community development organizations in South Africa.

She holds graduate degrees in counseling and international community development.

“I have been navigating and bridging two very different cultures (East & West) my whole life and love working in cross-cultural contexts,” Harris said. “Because I grew up in an immigrant family and watched the struggles my parents went through to adapt to the U.S. – as well as the help they received in order to become successful contributors to our country – the work of Welcome Dayton has particular resonance with me. I am excited about the opportunities this position gives me to support all those working to ensure that Dayton will always be a welcoming city to the immigrants and refugees who call it their home.”

For more information about Welcome Dayton, go to [welcomedayton.org](http://welcomedayton.org) or follow [facebook.com/welcomedayton](https://www.facebook.com/welcomedayton).



Stephen Brown

owner of Always Sublime Photography LLC as well as A.S. Media LLC. He currently serves as a board member/committee chair for Greene LEADS, committee member on the Beavercreek 4th of July Parade, incoming board member of the Beavercreek Rotary Club and new member to the United Way of Greater Dayton Area Donor Relations Council.

Brown was recently awarded “Young Professional of the Year” by the Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce.

Dianna Cordle is director of sales at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn.

As an active member of the Beavercreek Chamber, Cordle is the current committee chair for the Taste of Greene County and has also chaired the committee that organized Monte Carlo Night.

In conjunction with the

Holiday Inn, she is active with fundraisers and activities that support Habitat for Humanity, Greene LEADS, Michael’s House, Greene Giving, Feed the Creek and the local USO.

Brian Jarvis is an Air Force veteran and retired defense contractor and has been a member of the Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce since 2009.

Jarvis is a former mayor, vice mayor and city councilman of Beavercreek and has served on a number of local, county, and regional boards and commissions.

He is currently a member of numerous local community and advocacy groups.

#### CHAMBER

### Three members added to board

The Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors, for the three-year term beginning January 2018.

Stephen Brown is director of sales and marketing at the Hilton Garden Inn Dayton/Beavercreek. Additionally, Brown is a local business

### BUSINESS AWARDS

#### GOVERNMENT

### Dayton library gets award for diversity

Dayton Metro Library received the Diversity Champion Team Award at the National Land-Grant Diversity Conference. The award was presented at the 14th annual National Land-Grant Conference earlier this month in Hebron, Kentucky.

The Diversity Champion Awards recognize the accomplishments of individuals and teams that contribute to diversity and inclusion through exemplary leadership. Recipients demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion through diversity and multicultural programming, cultural competency, community outreach activities, or other initiatives that are in keeping with the goal of this annual National Land-Grant Diversity Conference.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is comprised of staff members from branches and departments across the Dayton Metro Library system. Launched in 2016, it is dedicated to fostering an environment where every employee perspective is valued, and creating opportunities for edu-

cation and dialogue.

Dayton Metro Library is online at [DaytonMetroLibrary.org](http://DaytonMetroLibrary.org) or at 937-463-2665.

#### GOVERNMENT

### County earns praise for record-keeping

Montgomery County’s financial record-keeping and fiscal responsibility received praise from statewide and national financial entities in 2017, earning awards and recognition for its strong financial management.

Montgomery County Auditor Karl Keith and his staff were recognized by the Ohio Auditor of State with the Auditor of State Award with Distinction. The award is presented to local governments upon completion of an annual financial audit performed by the Auditor of State’s Office. Montgomery County submitted a clean audit report for 2017, which means its annual financial report had no questioned costs, no financial concerns and met a number of other criteria.

Additionally, Montgomery County received the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

### PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH LAW

I have protected the rights of injured or deceased accident victims for more than 35 years. I can answer your questions concerning liability, damages, and insurance matters. I will explain your rights under the law. Call me for a free consultation.

**PICKREL SCHAEFFER & EBELING**  
A Legal Professional Association Practicing Law Since 1915

[www.pselaw.com](http://www.pselaw.com) • 937-223-1130

Personal Attention. Experience. Results...What you can expect from PS&E!