



# VOICE OF BUSINESS

## Dayton-Cincy collaboration benefits both



**Chris Kershner**  
President and CEO  
Dayton Area Chamber  
of Commerce

Talk of a Dayton-Cincinnati metroplex and joint MSA was considered a possibility years ago. However, the federal government said that is off the table, which is just fine with our local businesses.

Dayton is a unique, vibrant, diverse and robust community. Our innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, business environment and workforce quality of life give us a unique value proposition over any other community in the world, not to mention also being the home to the largest single-site employer in Ohio (Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) and being uniquely located in the heart of the Crossroads of America (I-70/I-75 interchange).

That doesn't mean we shouldn't embrace, partner, and collaborate with our neighbors 45 miles to the south. Nurturing our relationship with Cincinnati gives the Dayton region an even greater value-add, and the same goes for Cincinnati's partnership with Dayton. Our working commuters are already showcasing this, as a number of Cincinnati area residents are coming to Dayton for employment opportunities and Dayton area residents are finding jobs in Cincinnati. This doesn't bother us at all, as it makes our regions more attractive and provides opportunities for residents in both communities.

Collaboration between our two communities is a must. We have already ventured into this territory with positive partnerships between the Dayton and Cincinnati Chambers of Commerce and local governments around minority certification reciprocity, workforce commuting, strategic regional communications and economic development support.

Our economic growth

### Residential Home Sales

	July '21	July '20	%Change	YTD '21	YTD '20	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1711	1773	7.66%	9705	9172	5.81%
Total Home Sales	\$385,050,902	\$366,566,948	5.04%	\$2,107,163,291	\$1,750,126,850	20.40%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$225,044	\$206,750	8.85%	\$217,121	\$190,812	13.79%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales

### Sales Tax Collections

County	Current Rate	June 2021	June 2020	12 Mos Change	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD Change
Butler	0.75	\$4,622,758	\$3,779,804	22.30%	\$26,295,188	\$21,204,043	24.01%
Clark	1.5	\$2,576,559	\$2,471,571	4.25%	\$15,622,581	\$13,065,046	19.58%
Darke	1.5	\$1,000,275	\$928,691	7.71%	\$5,546,283	\$4,712,984	17.68%
Greene	1	\$2,885,850	\$2,414,204	19.54%	\$16,578,090	\$13,716,227	20.86%
Miami	1.25	\$2,014,958	\$1,805,406	11.61%	\$11,532,630	\$9,997,177	15.36%
Montgomery	1.25	\$10,450,335	\$8,908,625	17.31%	\$57,229,440	\$48,767,508	17.35%
Preble	1.5	\$626,570	\$580,455	7.94%	\$3,689,859	\$2,998,435	23.06%
Warren	1.25	\$5,323,027	\$4,456,135	19.45%	\$30,685,953	\$25,881,132	18.56%
Region Total		\$29,500,332	\$196,051,661	16.40%	\$167,180,026	\$140,342,555	19.12%

Source: [https://tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/researcher/tax-analysis/tax-data-series/publications\\_tds\\_sales](https://tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/researcher/tax-analysis/tax-data-series/publications_tds_sales)

hinges on the interconnectivity between our communities. Cincinnati has Fortune 500 companies, major league sports and tri-state connections. Dayton has federal installations, the I-70/I-75 interchange and a logistics hub. For example, for our logistics hub near the Dayton International Airport to

be successful, it is essential that major infrastructure connectors like the Brent Spence Bridge in Cincinnati are safe, efficient and operational. And for major defense contracting companies in Cincinnati, a strong relationship with WPAFB is critical to success.

But there is always more

to do. Our regional chambers of commerce are already working together. The Cincinnati Chamber has been a good partner and this positive relationship trickles into our respective business communities and enhanced partnerships. I'm excited to continue to explore ways we can leverage both of

our communities so we can each grow - together. We aren't Cincinnati, and Cincinnati isn't Dayton, but we can be more successful as a collective than we can on our own.

Chris Kershner is the president and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

### DAYTON CHAMBER

## It's time to put the focus back on workplace safety

Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

For many employers, COVID-19 sidelined their sharp focus on continued education in workplace safety. The pandemic forced safety professionals to interpret new guidelines and react to an evolving situation. But now's the time to re-engage.

The Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce's Dayton/Miami Valley Safety Council is once again hosting the region's largest gathering of nationally-recognized safety experts and the region's professionals in workplace safety.

The 69th Annual Dayton/Miami Valley Safety Conference & Symposium will feature nearly a dozen safety experts, who will dive into topics from how to train and record keep to meet OSHA requirements, how to build a strong safety culture, the legalities of mandating vaccines, navigating the claim process, fall protection and more.

This year's keynote speaker is Captain Louie Belluomini, a veteran whose treatment plan for PTSD and traumatic brain injury included a K9 named Star.

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CONTRIBUTED

### DAYTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register for all events at <a href="http://DaytonChamber.org">DaytonChamber.org</a> .	12, 7:30-9 a.m. Speaker — Congressman Mike Turner. Topic — Legislative priorities impacting the Dayton business community. Location — Marriott at the University of Dayton, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton
■ In-person: Executive Women's Council Reception at the Contemporary Dayton, Sept. 28, 4-6 p.m. Topic — Networking among the work of female artists. Location — The Contemporary Dayton, 25 W. Fourth Street, Dayton	■ In-person: Generation Dayton Monthly Mixer, Oct. 14, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Location — Tender Mercy, 607 E. Third Street, Dayton
■ In-person: Leadership Dayton Class of 2020 Tree Planting, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to noon. Topic — Leadership Dayton Class of 2020 & Alumni Class Project. Location — Sinclair Park — Harrison Township, 685 Shoup Mill Road, Dayton	■ In-person: Leadership Dayton Annual Meeting, Oct. 20, 5-6:30 p.m. Location — The Contemporary Dayton, 25 W. Fourth Street, Dayton
■ In-person: Uh-Oh! Combatting the Risks of Departing Employees, Oct. 6, 3:30-6 p.m. Speaker — Panel from Faruki+ Attorneys. Location — The Dayton Arcade (The Tank), 35 W. Fourth Street, Dayton	■ In-person: Dayton Area Logistics Association: Voice of the Blue-Collar Worker, Oct. 21, 8:15-10 a.m. Topic — Review data collected in the 2021 Voice of the Blue-Collar Worker Survey. Location — Montgomery County Business Solutions Center, 1435 Cincinnati St., third floor, Dayton

### BUSINESS OPENINGS

#### Tiki-themed restaurant opens

**Backwater Voodoo**, a new Tiki-themed restaurant in Miamisburg (103 S. Second St.) celebrated its grand opening last Sunday.

Owners Maria and Eric Walusis, who own Watermark next door, have opened a warm, cozy new restaurant and bar influenced by the couple's love for New Orleans, and the city's contribution to Tiki cocktail history and rebirth.

"We have visited many of the best Tiki bars in the country, including Porco in Cleveland and Beachbum Berry's Latitude 29 in New Orleans. We had already decided we wanted the décor and space concept to be non-traditional with regard to Tiki. In other words, we did not want to use the classic 'Tiki-kitsch' accoutrements such as fishnets, torches, grass awnings ... Don't get us wrong, we love those things, but we decided that the world needed something different. We were inspired by another Tiki bar in Nashville called Pearl Diver — which has a full-on Mid-Century Modern décor that Don Draper would have been proud of. It showed us that a bar could be true to a Tiki program without the traditional look and feel," said Eric.

In early 2020, prior to the pandemic, the couple took a

trip to New Orleans and took in many of the Creole cottages. They decided to move forward with a NOLA-inspired décor and vibe.

A little more than half the cocktails on the menu are originals developed by Eric. Backwater Voodoo will always feature classic Tiki drinks like the notorious Zombie and will have a partially rotating menu to keep things fresh.

In addition to the 40 seats in the restaurant, the couple has also opened a patio adjoining both Watermark and Backwater Voodoo that can seat up to 120 and will be used for outdoor dining, as well as special events and live music.

For more information, call 937-949-0522 or visit [www.backwatervoodoo.com](http://www.backwatervoodoo.com).

#### Midmark acquires Shor-Line

**Midmark Corp.**, the only clinical environmental design company providing medical, dental, and veterinary solutions that enable a better experience at the point of care, recently announced it acquired **Schroer Manufacturing Company** ("Shor-Line"), an animal health equipment manufacturer based in Kansas City, Kansas. The acquisition adds to Midmark's portfolio and positions the company as a preferred design partner for animal care professionals.

The transaction aligns with the Midmark belief that better care starts with a better-designed experience. Animal health customers will benefit from the strategic combination of Shor-Line's manufacturing and design expertise and Midmark's clinical insight and capabilities. Not only does the acquisition expand Midmark's products and services portfolio, but it also enables the company to engage with customers early in the design process to specify an entire suite of equipment and services that best fits the needs of the facility and its patients.

Founded in 1927, Shor-Line offers a full range of quality products, including containment, scales, surgery and exam tables, tubs, anesthesia, grooming and lighting. It also provides design and build services to its customers.

To learn more about Midmark, visit [midmark.com](http://midmark.com).

#### uBreakiFix® opens

Leading tech repair provider uBreakiFix® by Asurion has opened its newest location in Huber Heights at 8292 Old Troy Pike. The store offers professional repair services for anything with a power button, from smart phones, tablets, and computers to game consoles, smart speakers, and drones — and everything in between.

While common repairs include cracked screens,

battery issues, and water damage, uBreakiFix repair experts have fixed more than 12 million devices and can help with most any tech mishaps, with most basic repairs completed in two hours or less.

The store's expert repair technicians fix all types of electronics, regardless of make or model, and uBreakiFix is an authorized repair provider for some devices, including Samsung Galaxy and Google Pixel smartphones. Customers can book a repair appointment online or stop by the store for walk-in service. uBreakiFix offers free, no-obligation diagnostics on all gadgets, as well as a low-price guarantee and 90-day warranty on all repairs.

uBreakiFix was founded in 2009 after Co-founder Justin Wetherill dropped and shattered his own smartphone, sparking the idea for a convenient, affordable repair option. Wetherill partnered with David Reiff and Eddie Trujillo to bring the concept to life, and it has since grown from a single storefront in Orlando, Florida, to nearly 700 locations across the U.S. and Canada. uBreakiFix joined the Asurion® family in 2019 and now operates as a subsidiary of the tech care company.

For more information, to view a service menu, or to book a repair appointment, visit [ubreakifix.com/locations/huberheights](http://ubreakifix.com/locations/huberheights).

### Bloomora

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people in person.

"It was a nice bridge for us between being online and then getting ready to open the store," Gordin said.

Bloomora Botanicals is open Wednesday to Sunday and will be keeping their Facebook page updated at [facebook.com/bloomorabotanicals](https://facebook.com/bloomorabotanicals).

With the Tipp City store, Gordin said they wanted to do something different that would have a place among existing plant shops.

She said shoppers will find an "eclectic weird" aesthetic, with houseplants,

vinyl records, stickers and posters, local artists' works, and pots and trellises.

Gordin said they have customers who have large houseplant collections, but the shop owners pride themselves on also being a space for newbies.

"We'll help find the right type of plant for their plant expertise and that's also a good match for their house," Gordin said. "Because we know that every plant is going to survive and thrive differently in each person's space."

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### Patterson

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positions since the 1990s, including with the Kettering-Moraine-Oakwood Chamber of Commerce, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce and the DDC.

Don Patterson earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Dayton and attended Dayton Public Schools, graduating from Fairview High School.

Among the panels he has served on are the Day-

ton Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission Executive Board, Miami Valley Communications Council, Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association and the Ohio Mayor's Alliance Executive Board.

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