



# Newsletter

February 6th, 2026



**LOOKING FOR MEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS?  
CLICK HERE!**

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# Strategic Partnership Announced

Erie County Commissioners, Shores & Islands Ohio (S&IO), the Erie County Visitors and Convention Bureau (ECVCB), and the Greater Sandusky Partnership (GSP) announced a new strategic partnership to better align regional promotion and development, strengthen public-private collaboration, and ensure transparent and responsible stewardship of local lodging tax revenues.

Building on more than 20 years of joint marketing under the Shores & Islands destination brand for Erie and Ottawa Counties, which has driven tourism growth and increased lodging tax revenue, this effort will align resources to further strengthen the destination economy.

The Erie County Commissioners will enter into a new five-year agreement with the ECVCB. GSP will provide management services for ECVCB and S&IO and will continue discussions with Ottawa County Visitors Bureau (OCVB) about entering into a similar agreement. A regional S&IO Board will continue to guide joint marketing efforts in Erie and Ottawa County.

[Continue reading >>>>](#)

**Questions?**

[Read our Q&A](#)



**SHORES &  
ISLANDS  
OHIO**



# FROM THE CEO



## Shared Responsibility to an Incredible Region

*Eric Wobser | CEO, Greater Sandusky Partnership*

Earlier this week, I was driving across the Edison Bridge while on my way to a routine business meeting. I saw a Bald Eagle and was surrounded by water in every direction. I wondered to myself how often I have taken something like that for granted, and how few people get to live and work in a region with as much natural beauty and resources as Greater Sandusky and the Shores and Islands.

We sit within 500 miles of over 60% of the population of the United States and Canada. We live on Lake Erie, one of largest lakes in the world, which also happens to be the home of more freshwater fish and boats than anywhere else on the Great Lakes. We are also home to an amazing collection of islands, the best seasonal amusement park and one of largest indoor water parks in the world. Millions of people and billions of dollars flow into our region every year to take advantage of what we enjoy every day.

Our region has unique assets, and a changing world provides us with unique opportunities for growth. Access to affordable fresh water is increasingly at a premium. High cost of living on the East and West Coast is driving people back to the heart of the country. The Big Ten has won the last three national championships in college football. There are signs that over the next generation we will have the best opportunity in decades for the Great Lakes region to thrive.

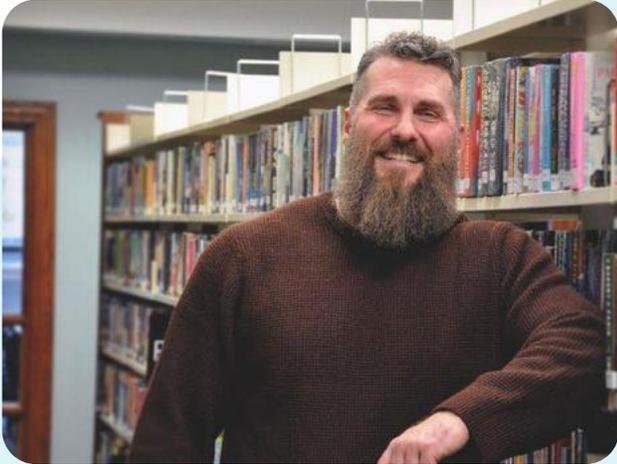
In spite of these tailwinds, we cannot take the revitalization of our region for granted. Like much of the Midwest, our region suffers from a decrease in birth rates and a shrinking workforce population. To rebuild our workforce and population we will need to focus on creating affordable and available housing. While our Destination Economy gives us a major advantage over most midwestern communities, we badly need to diversify our regional economy and to attract year-round employment and investment.

Loving this region means being honest about those challenges and addressing them together. Building on our competitive advantages will also require proactive leadership and collaboration. What we do collectively over the next generation will determine whether we are a leader in transforming our region or fall victim to the same demographic trends facing nearly every small city and rural community in Ohio.

This responsibility and opportunity are at the heart of the Greater Sandusky Partnership's new collaboration with Shores & Islands Ohio. Together, we can scale resources to more comprehensively promote, engage and develop our region to attract talent, grow business, and strengthen our communities.

When we work together across sectors, great things happen. Our goal is simple: to ensure this extraordinary place remains not only a destination people love to visit, but a place where people can live, work, and invest with confidence. We are stronger together.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## February 11th Coffee & Connection with William Rutger

Sandusky Library  
9:30 - 11:00 am

[REGISTER](#)



## February 18th MEMBER WEBINAR: Hire & Engage Interns

1:00 - 2:00 pm

[REGISTER](#)



## February 20th Work Space THINK TANK: Personal Branding

Work Space Sandusky  
9:00 - 10:00 am

[REGISTER](#)

[MORE EVENTS](#)

# MEMBER UPDATES



## MEMBER ORIENTATION

We had our first member orientation of the year at Gathering Grounds Coffee House in Huron (Thank you Lea and Team!).

We discussed upcoming programs, member benefits and resources available to get started.

### Couldn't make the event?

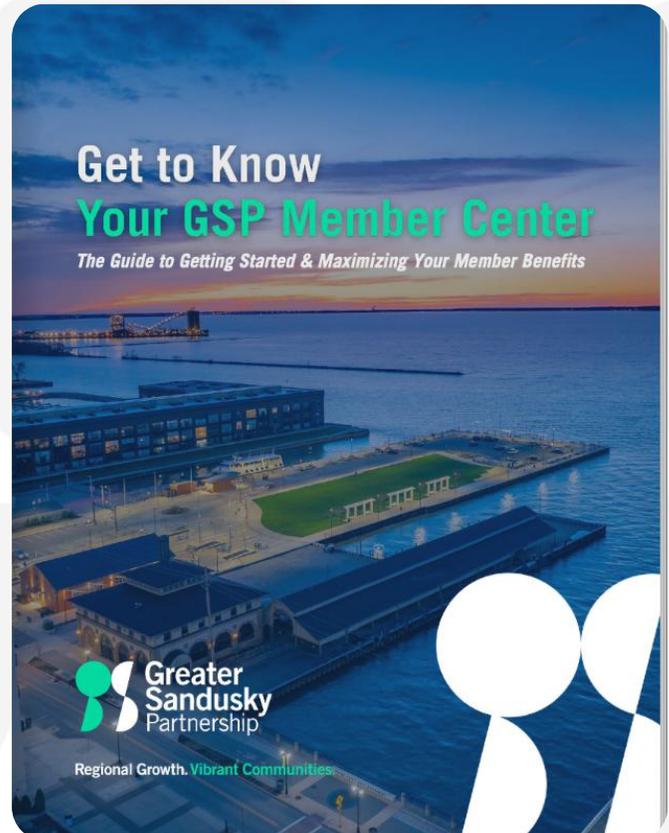
Contact Patrick Shepherd at [patrick@greatersandusky.com](mailto:patrick@greatersandusky.com) anytime with questions

## GET TO KNOW YOUR MEMBER CENTER

As a member of Greater Sandusky Partnership, you can share events, post job opportunities, celebrate big wins with the community, and offer deals and discounts.

You can do it all in one place – the GSP Member Center. Log in to get started.

We created a guide to help you navigate the GSP Member Center. Check it out if you have questions!



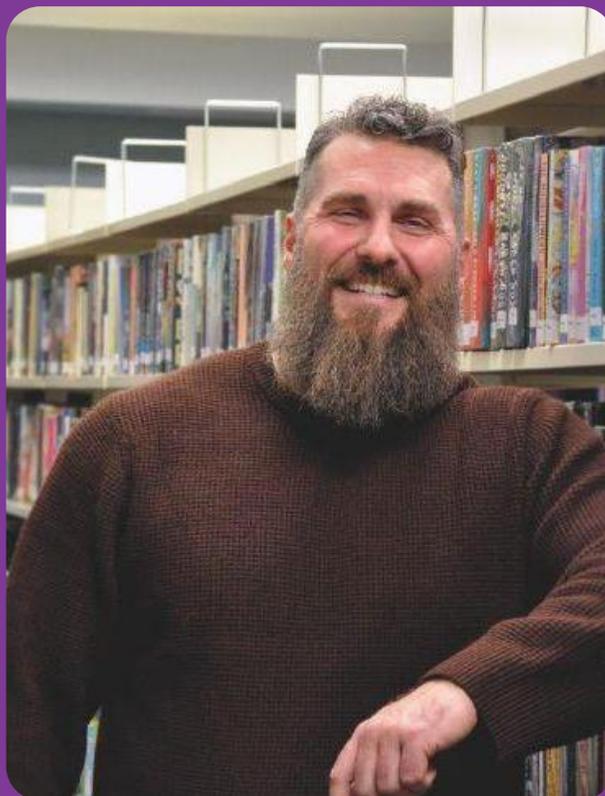


## LAST CHANCE! REGISTER NOW!

### *Coffee & Connection Feat. William Rutger, Executive Director of Sandusky Library*

A lifelong public servant, William began his library career in 1996 as a student Page at Sandusky Library. Over the years, he has worked in both academic and public libraries, including Bowling Green State University Firelands, before serving as Director of the Milan-Berlin Library District, Ashland Public Library, and Avon Lake Public Library.

[REGISTER NOW >>>](#)



## MEMBER WEBINAR

### *A Tax-Savvy Succession Plan Explore Employee Ownership*

Succession planning starts with understanding what's right for your business. Join Greg Daugherty of Porter Wright for a practical overview of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and why they are becoming an increasingly popular, tax-advantaged option for business owners that offers ownership options for employees.

[REGISTER NOW >>>](#)

# TALENT ENGAGEMENT

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**YP WEEK 2026**  
**July 27th - August 1st**

Produced by North Coast Young Professionals, YP Week highlights the energy and potential of the region's emerging leaders while showcasing the amenities, institutions, and culture that make this an ideal place for young professionals to live, work, and grow.



## HIRING SUMMER INTERNS? DON'T DO IT ALONE!

Join GSP for a webinar focused on the programs and platforms available to help employers recruit interns and keep them engaged in the community.

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18

**TIME:** 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

**[REGISTER NOW >>>](#)**



# PROGRAMMING & PLACEMAKING



**One Month Until**

# Sandusky

**RESTAURANT WEEK**

**MARCH 5-15, 2026**



Save the date! Sandusky Restaurant Week is returning March 5 - 15<sup>th</sup> Stay tuned for the list of participating restaurants!

*Would you like to Sponsor Restaurant Week? [CLICK HERE >>>](#)*



## STRONGMAN ON AMAZON PRIME

Strongman Champions League USA streaming on Amazon Prime Video, showcasing the league's powerful two-day debut in Northwest Ohio.

The first two episodes feature Day 1 in Toledo and Day 2 in Sandusky, where thousands of spectators packed the Lake Erie waterfront to witness a world-class showdown between some of the top international strongmen from USA, Europe, Africa and more.

[Watch here >>>>](#)



## HURON LAKE FRONT MARKET

Huron Lake Front Market will return this summer! **Vendor's, please submit your application by March 1st!**

For more information on becoming a vendor, please email Rachael Summerfield at [rsummerfield@greatersandusky.com](mailto:rsummerfield@greatersandusky.com)

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

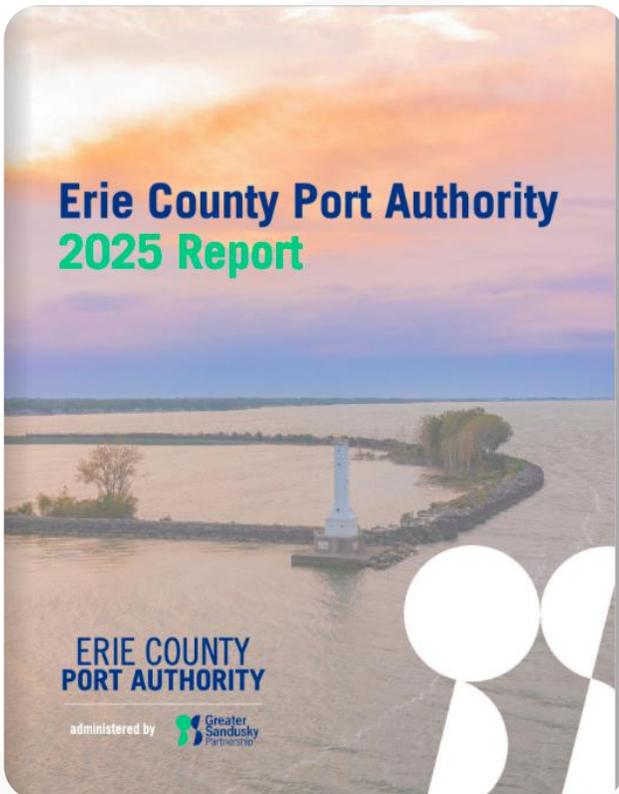


## Regional Housing Symposium

The GSP Regional Housing Symposium convened nearly 150 public, private and nonprofit leaders to examine housing needs and opportunities across the region.

A central feature of the symposium was an unveiling of the GSP Residential Development Strategic Plan which outlines a series of actionable strategies aimed at addressing the region's need for units.

[Read more about it here](#)



## 2025 ECPA REPORT RELEASED

Read what the Erie County Port Authority accomplished in 2025 from total capital invested, jobs created and dollars funneled back into the community through our partners.

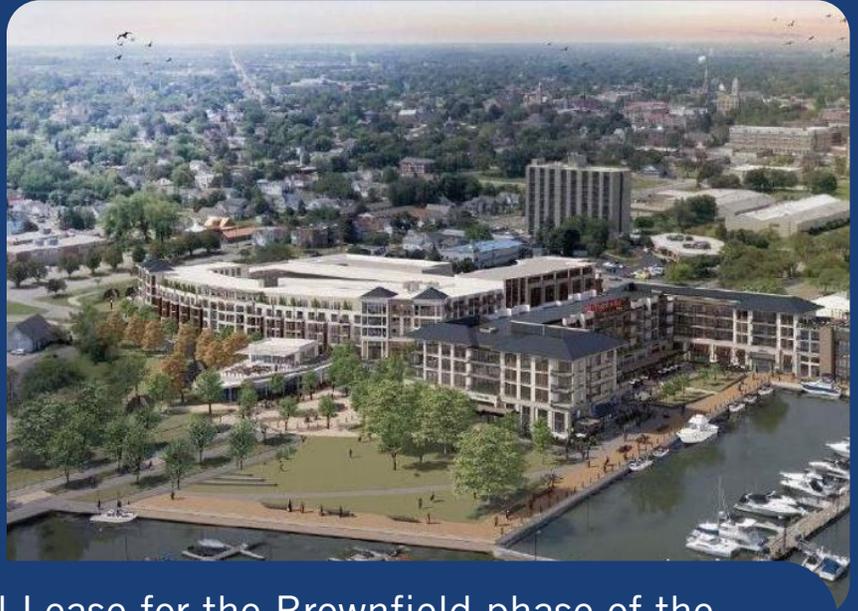
[Read the Report Here >>>](#)

The Erie County Port Authority is administered by Greater Sandusky Partnership. If you would like to learn more, contact GSP at [info@greatersandusky.com](mailto:info@greatersandusky.com).



## PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

The following three projects will result in nearly **\$42M in capital investment, \$800K in company savings, 38 new jobs and 144 new housing units** in the region.



### 1 Battery Park

The ECPA approved a Capital Lease for the Brownfield phase of the Battery Park Project, a development led by Marous Development Group, which encompasses site preparation, demolition and environmental remediation. This project will be a redevelopment of a 30 acre property.

### 2 Mudbrook

The Huron Joint Port Authority (HJPA) approved a Capital Lease for a multi-family residential development in Huron Township. The project is estimated to result in \$26M capital investment and the creation of 144 units of new rental housing and 3 permanent full-time jobs.

### 3 Manufacturing Facility Expansion

The ECPA approved a Capital Lease to support a major manufacturing expansion in Norwalk, OH. The total project cost is estimated at more than \$6M and will result in the addition of nearly 68K SqFt to the existing facility. The project is estimated to create 35 new jobs and retain 90 existing positions.

# GRANT OPPORTUNITY!

## SHORES & ISLANDS OHIO



### 2026 DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE IN ERIE AND OTTAWA COUNTIES



Shores & Islands Ohio is now accepting applications for its 2026 Destination Development Grant Program. Projects should focus on improving amenities, attractions, and facilities, fostering connections between residents and visitors, and aligning with S&IO's mission and strategic goals.

New this year, grant applicants are required to attend an informational meeting before they are allowed to apply. There will be a virtual option for those who cannot attend in-person. If unable to participate in any of the sessions, the applicant must schedule a one-on-one review with Amanda Smith Rasnick before applying.

Email [amanda@shoresandislands.com](mailto:amanda@shoresandislands.com) with questions regarding the info sessions or to schedule a personal review.

Applications are due February 25, 2026, with award meetings scheduled April 1–3 and April 6–8.

[CLICK TO LEARN MORE](#)

*Thank You*

**NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS!**



*Margaretta Township*  
Erie County, Ohio



**Northern Ohio**  
Truck Center



**KINGSTON**



**OEM MEYER CO**  
Employee Owned



TURF REHAB



HEC DOUGH LLC

EXECUTIVE CLEANERS



BARNHART BUILDERS LTD



**LOOKING FOR MEMBER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS?  
CLICK HERE!**



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