

March 27, 2020



PREBLE
COUNTY

CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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MEMBER NEWS

COVID-19 Crisis Edition 9

Member updates and news to keep you informed

Henny Penny Corporation halted all general manufacturing operations on March 23. The suspension will remain in place until April 6. Employee owners will still be paid during this period.

From Brubaker Grain: “During the COVID-19 outbreak, Brubaker Grain is committed to staying open and providing customers the everyday products they rely on. All our stores are open and plan to remain open to support customers but we will be switching over to call in orders only effective March 26. What that means is customers can call ahead of time and place an order or give us a call once you are in the parking lot. Our staff will get customers loaded and out the door without you ever having to leave your vehicle. This will allow us to continue to serve you while following social distancing recommendations. One of our top priorities is keeping our customers and our employees healthy and safe. Thank you for your patience during this time and call with any questions you may have.”

The Preble County Commissioners issued a statement regarding modified courthouse and government department operations on Wednesday, March 25. Offices in the courthouse have modified access to the public but are all still available by phone or email. You can find the document listing the information [HERE](#).

Ohio BWC shared this link to the Frequently Asked Questions on its website which provides information about the coronavirus' (COVID-19's) impact on BWC operations. Most noteworthy, Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation announced that unpaid insurance premium installment amounts due for March, April, and May for the current policy year can be deferred until June 1, 2020. At that time the matter will be reconsidered. Find the FAQs at <https://www.bwc.ohio.gov/downloads/blankpdf/COVID-19-BWCFAQs.pdf>

UPDATE: SBA Disaster Loan Information: The prior online portal is no longer accepting e-applications. Rather businesses are supposed to complete PDF forms offline and upload them to the website. Additionally, businesses will no longer be able to look up application status. The following link leads to location of new documents: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/apply-for-disaster-loan/index.html>

Resource from Job & Family Services -- SharedWork Ohio: SharedWork Ohio allows business owners to cut employee pay between 10 percent and 50 percent and provides a portion of the benefit the employee would receive through unemployment to that employee. This program is designed to allow employers to reduce payroll costs during times of business decline, without having to lay off employees. For more information, visit jfs.ohio.gov.

Fastlane will host the webinar “Coronavirus, Manufacturing and the Law” with Brian Wright and Adam Beiersdorfer from Faruki on Tuesday, March 31, at 3 p.m. If you want to attend the webinar, please register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KFtE1iH3TAaVK50-paYHdQ

Sen. Rob Portman's office provided an update last night on the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” or “CARES Act” legislation that passed the Senate by a vote of 96-0 and will be signed into law.

From Sen. Portman: “We are facing an unprecedented crisis. In the best interest of the American people, we have effectively chosen to pump the brakes on our economy while we accelerate our public health response, significantly expand our testing capability, and develop a credible system of metrics to measure success in combating the coronavirus. Unfortunately, that means that businesses of all sizes -- small, medium, large -- are having to either shutter their doors or slow down their production and lay off workers through no fault of their own. In an attempt to mitigate the economic hardship caused by this crisis, I've worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put together the CARES Act to provide some relief to the millions of Americans who have made our country and our economy the strongest in the world.”

The CARES Act includes a number of important provisions to help workers, families, employers, and health professionals during this crisis. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides direct financial assistance to families in need, including \$1,200 for individuals making less than \$75,000 and \$2,400 for couples making less than \$150,000. Families with children will be eligible for an additional \$500 per child;
- Includes a large temporary expansion in unemployment insurance benefits by adding a \$600 per week across-the-board payment increase through the end of July, providing an additional 13 weeks of benefits beyond what states typically allow, and expanding benefit eligibility to cover self-employed and independent contractors, government workers, and nonprofit employees;
- Provides \$350 billion in small business loans for companies with under 500

employees that effectively become grants if those loans are used to keep workers on payroll, make rent and mortgage payments, or pay utilities;

- Includes \$500 billion in immediate tax relief for businesses of all sizes, including provisions such as payroll tax deferral and the ability to immediately monetize tax losses;
- Creates a new fund established through the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve to provide loans and loan guarantees to businesses and industries that have been particularly affected by the current crisis, such as airlines, hotels, restaurants, and nonprofits;
- Includes strong transparency and accountability safeguards for any company that accesses federal loans and creates a new federal inspector general to oversee these loans;
- Includes \$150 billion for health care providers to support the nation's hospitals, doctors and nurses;
- Provides \$4.3 billion to support the CDC and state and local health departments as they identify every potential case;
- Provides accelerated payment opportunities for hospitals supporting vulnerable populations like children's hospitals, rural hospitals, and specialty cancer hospitals like Ohio State's The James, to help them maintain cash flows while they voluntarily suspend elective procedures to conserve PPE for providers treating COVID-19 patients; and
- Provides \$150 billion to support states and local governments that are impacted by the coronavirus to ensure they can continue to provide basic services for their citizens, including roughly \$4.5 billion to Ohio.



In these unprecedented times, we must "circle the wagons" and support our own local businesses. For that purpose, we have created a new Facebook group, [**Preble County Strong: Supporting Local Businesses.**](#)

We invite **ALL** businesses in Preble County to share updates on what is going on in their world. Open? Closed? Delivery or takeout special? Have a question for other business owners or looking for a resource? Want to share ideas or offer support? Reach out here. Together we can ride out this storm. You can find the Facebook group [HERE](#).

Find links to additional resources and all our daily COVID-19 Preble County updates at:

WWW.PREBLECOUNTYOHIO.COM



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