

Economic News from Ohio's Regions

Brought to you by The Ohio Urban University Program
The Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

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Email the Editor

Send to:

m.s.schnoke@csuohio.edu

Weekly News and Opinion from Ohio's Newspapers February 26, 2008 - March 3, 2008

Greetings!

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Economic News from Ohio's Regions*, a new weekly newsletter from the [Ohio Urban University Program](#) and the [Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University](#). We'll search Ohio's papers to bring you economic news and key happenings that impact Ohio's regions.

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News From Around Ohio

[Ohio Energy: Renewable Portfolios and Re-regulated Markets](#) (WCPN, February 26, 2008) An energy bill working its way through Columbus could dramatically change the state, doing everything from jump starting the renewable energy industry to transforming the bottom line on utility bills.

[Deadline Nears for Medical Mart Concept](#) (The Plain Dealer, February 26, 2008) Cuyahoga County expects to know in about a week whether it has a deal with Merchandise Mart Properties Inc., the Chicago-based company that championed the Medical Mart concept.

[Biotech Firm ViewRay Nudged by Investors to Move to Cleveland](#) (The Plain Dealer, February 26, 2008) Heavy-hitting investors on the East and West coasts offered ViewRay a \$25 million investment to speed development of its medical imaging and treatment device if the company moves from Gainesville, Fla., to a center of bioscience innovation. The company picked Greater Cleveland.

Deer Park Plans to Attract New Residents

(Cincinnati Enquirer, February 28, 2008) For the first time in its history, the city of Deer Park has unveiled a comprehensive plan to attract new residents and businesses.

Council Weighs Casino Amendment (Cincinnati Enquirer, February 28, 2008) Cincinnati City Council is weighing whether to ask the Ohio Legislature to put on the November ballot a constitutional amendment that would let Ohio voters decide if they want casino gaming in any county bordering a state that approves new gambling.

Summit Program to Fight Forfeit of Homes

(Akron Beacon Journal, February 26, 2008) Summit County will launch a foreclosure rescue program this year to help homeowners having trouble making mortgage payments, County Executive Russ Pry announced Monday.

Area home sales freeze, down 29% in January

(Akron Beacon Journal, February 26, 2008) Median price up 1% from 2007, but properties sit longer; nationally, buying slows to a record crawl. After a 12 percent annual decline in area home sales for all of 2007, the first month of this year went from bad to worse.

Tax Proposal Faces Fight (Youngstown Vindicator, February 26, 2008) Youngstown plans to use its water system as leverage to charge an income tax to those working in Boardman and Austintown.

Clinton, Obama and NAFTA: A Non-Issue? (NPR, February 27, 2008) Is NAFTA an issue? Ned Hill, Interim Dean at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University and others comment.

Rob Briggs Got Nonprofits to Focus on Northeast Ohio Economy (Plain Dealer, March 2, 2008) Rob Briggs is stepping down as Chairman of the Fund for Our Economic Future. "We have unified the foundation community in this region like no other model in the country," Briggs said.

Area Homes Sales Freeze (Akron Beacon Journal, February 26, 2008) January home sales nose-dived 29 percent from January a year ago, according to figures provided by the Akron Area Board of Realtors.

Mayor Frank Jackson Urges Businesses to Invest \$2 Billion (The Plain Dealer, February 19, 2008)

Making his plea at the State of the City Address, Mayor Jackson called on civic and business leaders to invest locally this year.

Honda Marysville Loses Motorcycles (Columbus Dispatch,

February 28, 2008) Local officials said Thursday they don't expect Honda's plans to stop manufacturing motorcycles at its Marysville plant will have an adverse affect on the community.

Ethanol's Building Boom Cools (Dayton Daily News, March 2, 2008)

Seven plants are expected to start up this year in Ohio, but will the market support more? Between January and March of this year, five plants are expected to open, three within an hour's drive from Dayton.

Editorial: Strickland's Not Hearing Dayton on Twin Valley Closing (Dayton Daily News, March 1, 2008)

Governor Ted Strickland refuses to even consider the possibility that his decision to close Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare is a mistake.

Foreclosures Skyrocket in Huron County (Sandusky

Register, March 2, 2008) One-third of the 1,403 new filings with the clerk of courts in 2007 were foreclosures. To put that in perspective, the total number of filings in 2000 was 975.

Edited and compiled by: Molly Schnoke, Center for Civic Education, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University