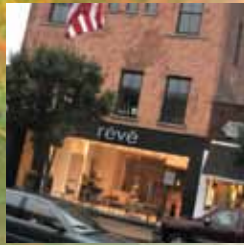


open for business



City of Sylvania

city of trees



welcome to Sylvania, Ohio



easy accessibility
financial stability
supportive government
educated workforce
small-town charm
high quality of life
vibrant spirit

We're proud of our vibrant, growing community and eager to share some of the many reasons to make Sylvania *home* for your business — and maybe home for you and your family.

In addition to a centralized, convenient location that is close to your customers, Sylvania features easy access to major highway systems; air, road, and rail transportation; and the Port of Toledo. We also offer a talented, educated workforce and an attractive mix of business sites at affordable, competitive prices. Whether you're looking for a development site, a large modern space, or a small charming shop, you'll find it in Sylvania. We're proud of our friendly and helpful people, responsive city services, and convenient parking options.

Sylvania will treat you right. Our goal is to provide you with one-stop business assistance, and we are committed to partnering with you so you can grow and thrive in our city. You'll find local government easy to work with, and whatever your questions or concerns, we'll help you find answers. Economic Development Director Bill Sanford is dedicated to introducing you to Sylvania and helping you with your business requirements.

We offer a tax-incentive program and business-development groups. You'll find more information elsewhere in this brochure and more data on our website, www.cityofsylvania.com.

We know that local taxes are always a business consideration, and it is one of the key questions we're often asked. Our 1.5% income tax on net profits earned (within the city) is comparable to other area communities. Our strategic location, exceptional city services, and supportive government make Sylvania a smart business investment. And have we mentioned our safe, beautiful environment, small-town convenience, and overall affordability?

Sylvania, the city of trees, is *Open for Business*, and we invite you to explore our city!

Craig A. Stough
Mayor



come for business, stay for life

A thriving community. . .

The City of Sylvania was founded in 1832 and has grown into an affluent, educated community of more than 19,000 residents; the percentage of the population holding bachelor's degrees is more than double in the county and three times the average in the state. Rich in diversity and economic vitality, with a median income that's above average in the county and state, 75% of the population consists of white-collar workers.

We are a friendly, active community that boasts an award-winning school system as well as an exceptional quality of life. In 2010, *Ohio Magazine* named Sylvania "One of Ohio's Best Hometowns," thanks to our wide selection of housing options, spacious parks with sports and recreational facilities, country clubs, shopping and dining venues, a vibrant senior center, walking trails and bicycle paths, and safe, walkable streets.

Our charming downtown hosts an eclectic mix of retail stores, restaurants, salons and spas, a grocery store, a hotel, and a bakery. Historic architecture, small parks, and tree-lined streets welcome residents and visitors alike. Take a step back in time at the Sylvania Historical Village & Heritage Center Museum. Join us for a street fair or dazzling fireworks display on the

Fourth of July. Or enjoy the wonders of the stars at the Appold Planetarium on the Lourdes University campus.

Located in Lucas County on the Ohio-Michigan line, just west of Toledo, Sylvania is within comfortable driving distance to major metropolitan areas including Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio; Chicago, IL; and Pittsburgh, PA. We are just 45 minutes from Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan and an hour's drive from the Detroit metropolitan area. Lake Erie, the Lake Erie Islands and the Great Lakes, as well as hundreds of area inland lakes, provide ample opportunities for fishing, boating, and just plain relaxing. Like winter activities? We have those, too.

Our area is also home to the world-class Toledo Museum of Art, the Toledo Zoo, minor-league baseball and hockey, and the popular Centennial Terrace & Quarry. We host a variety of county, street, and art fairs, plays, and Broadway shows. The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Ballet, and Toledo Opera performances are just minutes away. And Cedar Point, named one of the top amusement parks in the world, is only an hour's drive east.

Life is here, in Sylvania!

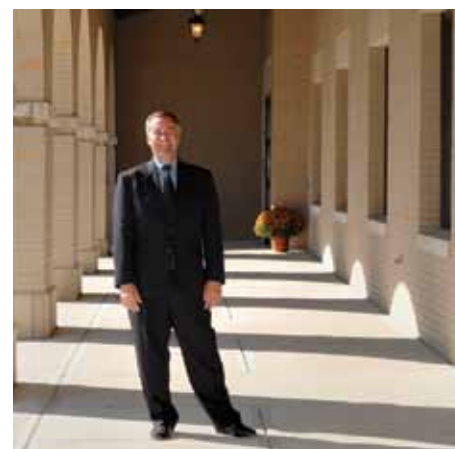
a growing community

The Sylvania area is one of the fastest growing in Lucas County, adding nearly 400 residents per year over the last decade. Housing is comparatively affordable, and real estate has held its value due to continued support of an excellent school system and a lower unemployment rate.

ProMedica Flower Hospital, with its extended services and physician groups, is expected to continue its pattern of growth. The hospital complex is part of the ProMedica Healthcare System and is one of Ohio's leading healthcare facilities. Lourdes University has experienced double-digit growth over the past several years. As it continues to grow, it will attract more students, families, and sports fans to Sylvania and spur development in housing, retail businesses, and services.

"Lourdes University offers a beautiful campus, rich educational opportunities on both the undergraduate and graduate level, and many community-outreach programs. It is a wonderful resource for businesses, providing values-centered programming and an educated workforce for our community."

— Bob Helmer, President
Lourdes University



Sylvania — the smart choice for *your* business



A critical part of your business success is linked to the community you call home. Businesses thrive and grow in vibrant communities that are financially stable and where local government is pro-active and pro-business. Sylvania has the highest bond rating (AA+) in Lucas County. We are committed to improving our services and infrastructure and maintaining our revitalization and community beautification efforts.

We are proud of our cooperative business partnerships and entrepreneurial spirit. Sylvania's Office of Economic Development can help you determine what programs and development groups will best fit your needs. You'll find more detailed information on these services on pages 5 and 6, and on our website, www.cityofsylvania.com.

Sylvania features innovative retail opportunities and prime commercial real estate, along with quaint stores along Main Street with larger shopping centers and malls nearby. You will also find professional and business offices and office parks, some integrated with restaurants and retail shops, and tracts of land currently zoned for development.

An important element in finding a home for your business or your family is location. Geographically, our area has been referred to as the "Crossroads of America" because of the easy access to several major highway systems — I-75 north and south; I-80/90 (The Ohio Turnpike) east and west; regional connector routes like US 23 north and south; US 24 northeast and southwest; and US 20 east and west. We are less than an hour from Detroit Metro Airport and 20 minutes from Toledo Express Airport.

We think you'll agree: with its small-town flavor and high-tech, big-city advantages, Sylvania is an exceptional place to work and live.

a shared vision for the future

We believe in planned growth — for the city and for your business. We'll personally work with you to find the most up-to-date strategies and solutions to meet your needs today and tomorrow. Sylvania is poised for growth, and we have committed our business development efforts to select fields. We are a perfect fit for medical, educational, research and development, and high-tech disciplines. Programs at area universities, including The University of Toledo, Lourdes University, and Bowling Green State University also support these initiatives. Our proximity to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor offers additional opportunities and advantages.

THE SOMO INITIATIVE

Sylvania has set aside a 5.5-acre tract of land south of Monroe Street (SOMO) for new development. A market analysis of potential land use suggests an eclectic mix of office space, fine and casual dining, entertainment, retail stores, and service businesses. The plan also includes plenty of green space and parking, with water's edge views and walkways. The developed site will complement and complete the downtown area with easy pedestrian traffic between the areas. In tandem with this development will be the Gateway Project (a beautification of the roadway leading into Sylvania from the east) and River Trail which will open additional water's edge areas to walk through and enjoy.

TOP FIVE EMPLOYMENT SECTORS:

1. Healthcare & Social Services
2. Retail Trade
3. Accommodations & Food Service
4. Educational Services
5. Other Commercial Services

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Median Household Income	\$70,185*
Per Capita Income	\$34,418

** Both household median income and household values are significantly above median levels for the state.*

perspectives

meet our community business partners

Large, small, and in between, businesses and organizations have made Sylvania their professional home. Some owners grew up here, live here, and wouldn't think of locating their business anywhere else. Others have relocated to Sylvania because of its affordability and location, or the support they received from the city.

Whatever their motivations, our business partners not only love being a part of this vibrant, growing community, they believe you will, too! Here's why...

Kris Aalto, president of Biomaterialize, says, "When I decided to relocate my business from Ann Arbor, MI, easy access to all the Ohio and Southeast MI resources important to our company, along with the outstanding support provided by the city and chamber, made Sylvania a natural

choice. It is a joy to run a technology business within the atmosphere provided by Sylvania's vibrant and pedestrian-friendly downtown." Having moved her family here as well, Kris adds, "We are proud to call Sylvania 'our town.'"

Sylvania resident and Mobile Care Group President Joe Wallace agrees, "When we decided to expand our business, we quickly concluded that leaving Sylvania was not an option. In addition to a business-friendly city administration that promotes economic development, Sylvania meets my family's residential, educational, and spiritual needs — *all within a three-mile radius!*"

"I can't imagine being anywhere else," exclaims Steve Morris, P.E. and senior partner at JDRM Engineering, Inc. "The

city of Sylvania helped us when we first started up, and we find the warm, family-oriented community a great place for business and an accessible, comfortable, and inviting place for our employees."

"We restored the Chandler building and people seem to love the history," say Chandler Cafe owners Gail and Laurie Stansley. "The downtown atmosphere is eclectic and welcoming — the perfect gathering place for business colleagues, friends, and families."

University President Bob Helmer adds that "Lourdes University is proud to be part of the Sylvania community. The relationships among business, education, medical institutions and families in our community are truly a model to follow."

"Over 500 visitors from almost 100 different companies visit our Sylvania home each year. Our unique Root office and the inviting Sylvania community combine to create a powerful client destination."

— Jim Haudan, President & Chairman
Root Learning



"The city's nurturing business climate has allowed ProMedica Flower Hospital to flourish since its move to Sylvania in 1975. It's a family-oriented city with excellent schools and abundant parks making it a great place to live and work."

— Alan Sattler, President
ProMedica Flower Hospital



"As a lifelong Sylvania resident, I am proud to be a part of its business community. The loyal support of the city and local clients helps my business grow and thrive, and thanks to the Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation, we have been able to extensively renovate our century-old building."

— Carmen Gauer-Wigmans, Owner
Revé Salon



city of Sylvania

economic development programs & organizations



PROGRAMS

Job Creation Grants

New non-retail business may receive a credit of one-third of the income tax the City of Sylvania receives from that new business for a period of up to ten years providing it meets job creation/retention goals.

Linked Deposit Program

Sylvania companies can now access business-loan assistance to expand facilities, increase employment, and enhance economic activity through the Linked Deposits program. The Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation (SACIC) receives up to 3% reduced earnings on its Certificates of Deposit at area banks as long as the bank passes along the 3% savings to the company or participant via a reduced loan-interest rate.

There is a \$50,000 maximum allocation per project, with special consideration to proposals leading to job creation and positive economic impact in Sylvania.

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)

CRA promotes new construction and/or rehabilitation of existing commercial and industrial structures by providing real property tax exemption on new real capital investment. All abatements shall be for up to 100% of the value of the new improvements with eligibility certified by the City's housing officer. Multi-family and commercial/industrial projects are subject to a negotiated payment to the school board as determined by a CRA real property tax-abatement agreement.

ORGANIZATIONS

Sylvania Area Community Improvement Corporation (SACIC)

A driving force in the community since 1969, the SACIC is a coalition of area business and community leaders with a history of proven economic development and business support programs and successful community-enhancement projects and studies.

Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce

With nearly 500 members, the Chamber is dedicated to promoting the progress, expansion, well-being, and improvement of the business, professional, and civic community.

Economic Development City of Sylvania Council Sub-Committee

The Economic Development Sub-Committee works as a liaison with the city administration and the community to develop a diversified, sustainable business base for Sylvania, thereby ensuring a vibrant economy for the long-term benefit of Sylvania's residents, schools, and businesses.

*Bill Sanford, Office of Economic Development, is available to assist you.
Please call 419.885.0482 or email bsanford@cityofsylvaniam.com.*

SYLVANIA DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Population	19,109
Number of Households	7,368
Estimated Labor Force	14,185
Residents with Associate's Degrees	8.8%
Residents with Bachelor's Degrees	27.9%
Graduate or Professional Degrees	15.3%

TAX STRUCTURE

Sylvania Income Tax	1.5%
Real Estate Taxes – please contact: The Lucas County Auditor's office	419.213.4420 www.co.lucas.oh.us
Ohio State Sales & Use Tax (state – 5.5%, Lucas County – 1.25%)	6.75%
Ohio State Income Tax graduated to a maximum	5.925% > \$204,200

city government
open for
assistance

CITY OF SYLVANIA

Office of Economic Development

William (Bill) D. Sanford
6730 Monroe St.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
P: 419.885.0482
F: 419.885.8927
E-Mail: bsanford@cityofsylvania.com

City Hall

6730 Monroe St.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
P: 419.885.8925
F: 419.885.8927
E-Mail: city.mayor@cityofsylvania.com

**Sylvania City Police Division
City Council Chambers**

Sylvania Municipal Building
6635 Maplewood Ave.
Sylvania, Ohio 43560
P: 419.885.8902
F: 419.885.8914
E-Mail: info@sylvaniapolice.com

Municipal Court

Municipal Court Building
6700 Monroe St.
Sylvania, OH 43560
P: 419.885.8978
F: 419.885.8987
E-Mail: clerk@sylvaniacourt.com

**Sylvania Area Community
Improvement Corporation (SACIC)**

5632 N. Main St.
Sylvania, OH 43560
P: 419.842.8108
F: 419.885.7740
E-Mail: admin@sylvaniaareacic.org

**Sylvania Area
Chamber of Commerce**

5632 N. Main St.
Sylvania, OH 43560
P: 419.882.2135
F: 419.885.7740
E-Mail: admin@sylvaniachamber.org

www.cityofsylvania.com

county and state
business resources

**CITY OF TOLEDO
& LUCAS COUNTY**

Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority

One Maritime Plaza, Suite 701
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419.243.8251
www.toledoportauthority.org

Community Reinvestment Area (CRA)

Lucas County Auditor/Real Estate
One Government Center, Suite 2250
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419.213.4420
www.co.lucas.oh.us

STATE OF OHIO

Ohio Department of Development

77 S. High St.
P.O. Box 1001
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1001
www.odod.state.oh.us

Ohio Business Gateway

www.business.ohio.gov

Office of Business Development

614.466.4551 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-4551
www.odod.state.oh.us/OBD.htm

Office of Financial Incentives

614.466.5420 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-5420
www.odod.state.oh.us/EDD/loans_grants.htm

Office of Tax Incentives

614.466.2317 or 800.848.1300
www.odod.state.oh.us/oti.htm

**Entrepreneurship &
Small Business Division:**

Small Business Development Centers
614.466.2711 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-2711
www.odod.state.oh.us/Entrepreneurship

1st Stop Business Connection

614.466.4232 or 800.248.4040
www.odod.state.oh.us/onestop

Specialized Markets Program

614.466.2718 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-2718
www.odod.state.oh.us/Entrepreneurship

Women's Programs

614.466.2718 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-2718
www.odod.state.oh.us/Entrepreneurship

Minority Business Enterprise Division:

**Office of Minority Business
Financial Incentives**

614.466.4551 or
800.848.1300 ext. 6-4551
www.development.ohio.gov

Technology Division:

Ohio's Thomas Edison Program

614.466.3887 or 800.848.1300
www.odod.state.oh.us/tech/titc

Ohio Department of Taxation:

Sales & Use Tax Division

614.466.7351 or 888.405.4039
www.tax.ohio.gov

Personal Property Tax Division

614.466.3280
www.tax.ohio.gov/divisions/personal_property

Ohio Treasurer of State:

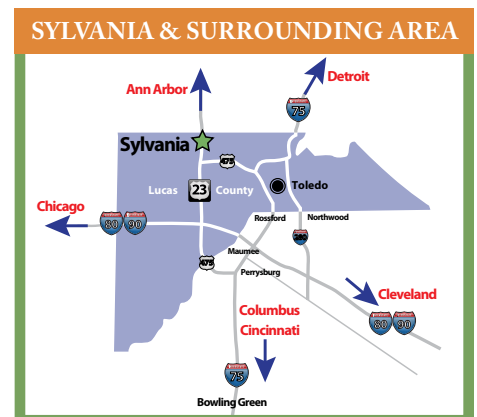
**GrowNOW Interest
Rate Reduction Program**

614.466.6546 or 800.228.1102
www.grownow.ohio.gov

FEDERAL

U.S. SBA Loan Programs

www.sba.gov





City of Sylvania

city of trees

