



THE **RAVENNA** PULSE

Taking the pulse of the Ravenna business community.

A Ravenna Economic Development Publication | June 2024



NEW BUSINESS NEWS

225 years ago – on June 11, 1799, Ravenna came into existence. The attraction of a lawyer and future Ohio senator - Benjamin Tappan, from Northampton, Massachusetts came to Ohio and staked claim to form the existence of Ravenna, Ohio, which was once part of Franklin Township, which actually was part of Trumbull County at one time. Benjamin Tappan paved the way (well

actually they were dirt roads) for future business attraction and growth of big industry and transportation. To view Ravenna's historical summary, click [here](#). Additionally, click [here](#) to view Ravenna Community's current Economic Overview Report.

Ravenna has more to celebrate than their anniversary; ***transformation!***

Ravenna has seen a metamorphosis from dirt roads and horses, the birthplace of Quaker Oats and manufacturing of horse-drawn hearses, to advanced technology that continues to infuse limitless imagination without boundaries. Though manufacturing remains as Ravenna's top industry cluster with the transition of automation generating higher production output and requiring less workforce, this community has taken advantage of attracting more research technology within the last ten years. And Ravenna has seen an influx of more foreign direct investment than it has ever seen.

But Why Ravenna? Because the state and region are transforming into advanced technology as well as bringing opportunities for local businesses to form partnerships with these companies. Ravenna, Portage County, Northeast Ohio and Ohio have the **appetite** for this type of rebirth into future business models, creating **bold visions** of what may transcend into new ventures for many businesses looking to **collaborate** around new growth in the products they can produce. It's what we call the ABC's – **Appetite; Bold Vision; Collaboration**. The willingness to want to grow. That's all taking place here in Ravenna.

What's driving this growth? Speed and access to market; access to various industry clusters that can leverage off each other; rapid technological advancements; high demand for supplier diversity; and regional growth in arts and entertainment that entices transient workforce and residents to want to stay here and grow here.

Ravenna has more to celebrate than 225 years of existence. Since 2020, income tax collections have risen approximately 8% with a moderate growth rate of 7.8% from 2022 to 2023. This is due in part to rising wages and business attraction and expansion efforts.

June 8th will begin celebration activities in Ravenna. I encourage our businesses and business leaders to come out that day and enjoy Main Street Ravenna's Art on Main and meet the mayor and city council. And if your business offers community volunteering programs for your employees, we would love to meet your employees and work beside them on this special occasion. Please contact Arasin Hughes at 330.235.9509 or send her an email at mainstreetravenna@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting everyone on Saturday, June 8th.



AVAILABLE OFFICE REAL ESTATE DOWNTOWN RAVENNA

161 E. MAIN STREET

*Available for
Lease!*



This property, located at 161 E. Main Street, offers 4,500 square feet of redeveloped office space, featuring private offices as well as a conference room that can be divided into separate areas. It also includes a kitchenette area. Ample parking is available, with options for both on-street and behind the building.

Interested in 161 E. Main Street? Please contact Jack Kohl or Arasin Hughes with Jack Kohl Realty at [\(330\) 436-5367](tel:3304365367)/[\(330\) 221-2973](tel:3302212973)



AVAILABLE RETAIL REAL ESTATE DOWNTOWN RAVENNA

1139 E. MAIN ST.

*Available for
Lease!*



This 1,780 square foot end-cap retail space offers versatility, accommodating either a commercial retail establishment or a sit-down restaurant with drive-through capability. The location benefits from high traffic volume, providing excellent exposure and accessibility for businesses. Situated at 1139 E. Main St. in Ravenna, Ohio, this property presents an attractive opportunity for entrepreneurs seeking a prime commercial spot in a bustling area.

Interested in 1139 E. Main Street? Please contact Jeff or Andrew Soclof at [\(216\) 292-3700](tel:2162923700)

Check out all commercial real estate available in Ravenna, then let's start a conversation!

SEE AVAILABILITY



COMMUNITY & CULTURE

Ravenna attracts many people to its downtown and area events. Small enough to preserve a hometown feel, but big enough to attract thousands to events, Ravenna offers the best of both community and culture.

It's a Rodeo - 3rd Annual Summer Celebration

The City of Ravenna Parks and Recreation, in partnership with Reed Memorial Library, is hosting the 3rd Annual Summer Celebration on Friday, June 7, from 5:00-8:00PM at City Park! At this free family-friendly event, enjoy a lively evening filled with square dancing, a petting zoo, crafts, a variety of food trucks, and more.

Ravenna's 225th Anniversary Celebration

It's our birthday, and to celebrate, we will be hosting our 225th Anniversary on June 8, right at city hall! This event, held in conjunction with Art on Main, will include a speech by Mayor Seman and proclamations, celebratory cake and cupcakes, a time capsule, and more. Join us as we celebrate our rich history and this milestone! [Click here for more details.](#)

Art on Main

Each June we celebrate creativity with our signature Art on Main – this year's event is on June 8th!

Held on Main Street in beautiful historic downtown Ravenna, the annual Art on Main event is a celebration of talented student artists and local artisans from around northeast Ohio. [Visit Main Street Ravenna's website for more information.](#)

Ravenna Rocks

Continuing the Ravenna Rocks concert series, this community-wide event showcases some of Ravenna's and the surrounding areas' local talent, businesses, and groups. The kick off event in this series is August 12, and the closing event is in October! [Click here for more details as they become available.](#)

Ravenna Balloon A-Fair

Save the date! The 45th Annual Ravenna Balloon A-Fair will be in town from September 19-22! You can expect a lot of fun and activities like a hot air balloon launch, live music by Escape: The Journey Tribute Band, pony rides, food & craft vendors, fireworks, and more! For more information on cost, parking, and festivities please visit the [Balloon A-Fair website.](#)

Octane Nights Cruise-In

On August 7, thousands of racecars, hotrods, classics, semis, tractors, motorcycles and vehicle enthusiasts of all ages will descend on downtown Ravenna for a HUGE cruise-in! It's a great show rain or shine – mark it on your calendar and don't miss it! For more information, please visit the [Octane Nights website.](#)



History Lives

Portage County Regional Planning Commission created a Ravenna Historic Structures collection that showcases historical houses and buildings in Ravenna. [Visit this website](#) to explore Ravenna's historic structures through walking and driving tours or by architectural style. Pictured is the William J. Weaver house.



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