

miamisburg mound community improvement corporation



what's inside:

Office Building Being Prepared for Market

page 2

What Really Happened 'On the Hill'

page 3

Expert Advisor Optimistic about MATC's Future

page 3

Mound Company Grows Up

page 3



Mound Builders: MMCIC honors leaders

If Miamisburg's history teaches one thing, it's that mound-building involves an enormous community effort. Archaeologists suggest that when the Adena Indians built their mound so many centuries ago, for example, they did so by working together in a coordinated fashion, moving tons of earth, one basket at a time.

When the Department of Energy decided to close the Mound facility, a new moundbuilding challenge arose. Its success also depends on a community approach – people contributing their individual efforts to realize the vision for the Mound Advanced Technology Center as a thriving business and technology park.

"Many individuals and organizations are collectively responsible for the milestones we've achieved thus far," said MMCIC president Mike Grauwelman. "They have brought Mound to the threshold of a great new future."

In honor of the site's ancient heritage and to recognize the support of those who have made extraordinary contributions to Mound's redevelopment, MMCIC has established a new award program known at "Mound Builders."

(Please see "MMCIC Honors Leaders" on page 2)



The recently inaugurated Mound Builder award program honors individuals and organizations that have provided exemplary leadership and made significant contributions to Mound's reuse. The first-ever Falcon Award, representing the highest level of the honor, was first presented to Dr. Larry Dosser (middle), president of Mound Laser & Photonics Company and John Weithofer (right), retired Miamisburg city manager. Presenting the awards was MMCIC president Mike Grauwelman (left).

("MMCIC Honors Leaders" continued from page 1.)

Who is a Mound Builder? It's a person who has...

- Helped to rebuild, redevelop and revitalize Mound.
- Played a key role in re-inventing the site as the Mound Advanced Technology Center.
- Demonstrated commitment to its future as a lasting, nurturing business environment, where innovation thrives.
- Shown exceptional leadership to ensure that the Dayton region maximizes this valuable resource.

The Mound Builder Falcon award is rich in Native American symbolism. The falcon is fearless, passionate, persistent and unwavering in pursuit of its goal. The falcon is a leader.



"Repeating the tradition of relying on a collective effort to reshape the future, today's Mound Builders are finding new ways to energize their surroundings, coordinate community involvement and build their newest monument... one basket at a time," Grauwelman said.

office building being prepared for market

Architectural and engineering plans are being developed for the refurbishing of one of the premier facilities on the Mound campus. The 50,000-square-foot office building, 460 Capstone Circle, will undergo \$1.5 million in renovations, including a new entrance, façade, parking lot and landscaping.

According to MMCIC Operations Manager Frank Bullock, the work will begin in early summer and be completed by late fall of 2007.



what really happened 'on the hill'

Museum Association Features Speakers

The Mound Museum Association is continuing its popular speakers series, which reveals the facts about many of the top-secret missions and operations carried out during Mound's 50-year history as a DOE defense weapons facility.

Wednesday, March 28 – Dr. E.J. Reagan on Mound's Worker Medical Support Over the Years

Wednesday, April 25 – Dr. Carl Kershner on the Mound Polonium-210 Isotopic Fuels Program Wednesday, May 23 – Dr. G.T. McConville on Low Temperature Physics at Mound.

All MMA speaking events are held at 7 p.m. in the large conference room at the Mound Museum, 500 Capstone Circle. Enter the Mound Advanced Technology Center from the main entrance on Mound Road, and go to the top of the hill. The building is on your left.

For more information, please contact Kerry Weisenborn at (937) 866-1186 or kweisenborn@donet.com or Dr. Frank Lonadier at (937) 512-2308 or frank.lonadier@sinclair.edu.

And the winners are...

The first Mound Builder awards have been presented to two key figures in the Mound redevelopment effort:

Dr. Larry Dosser

A tireless worker, Dr. Larry Dosser is a rare blend of entrepreneur and scientist. He has built the success of his company, the Mound Laser & Photonic Center, on a strategy that utilizes military R&D programs to develop technologies and then takes them to commercial markets. Dosser was one of the first Mound scientists who launched a business in 1995. He subsequently sold it and then bought it back. Today the company employs 18 people and generates \$1.5 million in sales annually.

"He is a business man, a leader and a mentor to the college students who work in his apprentice program," Grauwelman noted. "He is creating excitement among a new generation of entrepreneurial scientists who will carry on our region's tradition of innovation and invention."

John Weithofer

The Miamisburg community – and the Mound reuse effort – have benefited from the stability of consistent leadership, thanks to the commitment of retired city manager John Weithofer. He served in the city's top administrative post for 18 years and as assistant city manager for six.

He has earned the respect of his colleagues. They have elected him to chair the MMCIC Board of Trustees for 10 years and the Mound Reuse Committee for 13, despite his offers to step down and share the leadership opportunities.

"John is an incredible champion for the community's interests," Grauwelman said. "He lives the motto of the Rotary Club, which is 'service above self."

Weithofer retired from the city at the end of 2006 but continues to serve on the MMCIC Board.

advisor a 'tough, bottom-line kind of guy'

When MMCIC was first established in 1994, officials went straight to the top in search of the most knowledgeable and best qualified board members. That's what led them to Dick Flitcraft, area resident and former director of Mound Laboratories for the Monsanto Corporation from 1971 to 1982.

Height of the Cold War

"Those years were the height of the Cold War, when activity at Mound Laboratories was at its peak," he said. "When I took over, there were 1,900 employees; when I left, there were 2,500."

Mound specialized in developing, testing and producing weapons detonators and heat sources for space exploration. Its scientists and support staff were world-class, and the facility had established an excellent reputation within the defense community.

"There was never any question about the quality of the work and meeting deadlines," Flitcraft recalled. "The new projects just kept coming in."

An innovator

Prior to the Mound Laboratories assignment, Flitcraft had been with Monsanto for 29 years. An innovator, he standardized the company's computers worldwide so they could be networked and "talk" to each other, while serving as general manager over the Electronics Division during the 1960s.

While Flitcraft did not accept an MMCIC board position, he committed to serving as a special advisor to the redevelopment project. He has offered unsurpassed business advice and defense-industry insights.

"With his direct experience as site manager for Mound Laboratories and his excellent understanding of business, Dick Flitcraft has had immeasurable impact on the MMCIC Board's decisions," said Board chairman John Weithofer. "He's a tough, bottom-line kind of guy, and he always keeps us on track."

From the beginning, Flitcraft emphasized the value of building personal relationships.

"I really thought it was important early on for local officials to get acquainted personally with Department of Energy people and legislators," he said. "Although they were reluctant at first, I think they found it valuable in



Dick Flitcraft

found it valuable in the end."

'Prospects are good'

Over the years, Flitcraft has been impressed with MMCIC. "The organization is an asset," he commented. "The value system here is based on integrity. The people are honest and open, and they don't play games."

He is also optimistic about the future of the Mound Advanced Technology Center. He noted that with the excellent condition of the site's remaining buildings, good marketing programs and continued physical improvements, "the prospects are good."

Flitcraft has been married to his high school sweetheart, Bertha, for 64 years. The couple has four children and six grandchildren, "scattered from coast to coast."

mound company grows up

When Mound Manufacturing Company moved from the Mound Advanced Technology Center to a larger industrial space in Dayton last fall, it was like seeing a hatchling leave the nest. The company, one of the first to be launched by former Mound employees, grew over the past 12 years from a fledgling start-up to a successful competitor in the precision machining industry.

"We're happy for them," said MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman. "We're sorry we couldn't accommodate their space needs within their time frame."

MMC partnered with another former Mound-based company, Global Manufacturing Solutions, to purchase one-half of a 47,000-square-foot building. With 13 emMound Manufacturing Company and Global Manufacturing Solutions, both started by former Mound employees, have purchased a larger facility in Dayton. Cutting the ribbon are (I - r) Al Hodapp, Mound Manufacturing; Dayton Mayor Rhine McLin; Chuck Woods, Bill Bankes and Fred Seger, all of Global Manufacturing Solutions.

Round traiting the sector of t

ployees, the precision machining company occupies 17,000 square feet, nearly double the space at Mound.

"We were looking for flexibility and more space, which were not immediately available on the Mound campus," said MMC President Al Hodapp. "Our long-term plan is to stay here because there is room for expansion." The remaining space, which is located at 33 Commerce Park in north Dayton, is occupied by Global and another tenant.

The city of Dayton provided financial incentives for the move.

"We're proud to have been involved in MMC's growth and development," Grauwelman said. "This is a true success for the region."



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and information about the
Mound Advanced Technology
Center. It is published for
stakeholders by the Miamisburg
Mound Community Improvement
Corporation. We welcome your
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high marks for innovation



When Congressman Mike Turner brought Commerce Department Under Secretary for Economic Affairs Cynthia Glassman to town recently for a visit of local businesses, they came to the Mound Advanced Technology Center and toured the Mound Laser & Photonics Center. Here they are viewing a laser demonstration. Turner stated that his intent was to identify the essential ingredients necessary to inspire innovation. MLPC President Dr. Larry Dosser provided a briefing and a tour, highlighting the many high-tech business opportunities his company has generated in the areas of laser marking and engraving, laser welding and laser micromachining. In early 2007, MLPC achieved ISO 9001:2000 registration, signifying the company's commitment to quality.