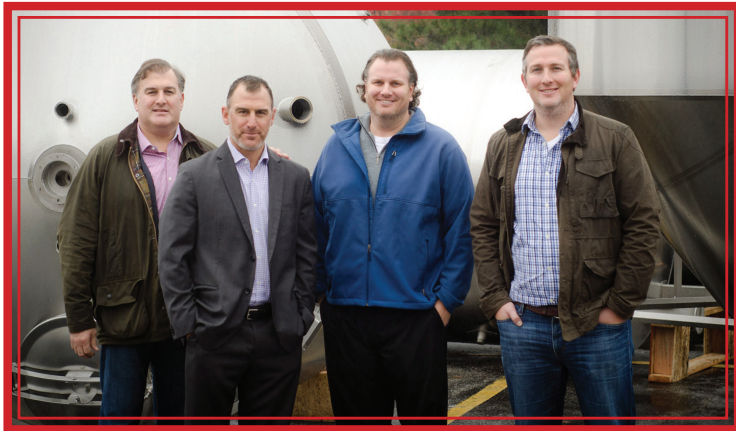


# The Buckeye Beacon

Today & Tomorrow, Buckeye Community Bank is Your Partner for Growth

Vol 3 • Issue 4



When talking about local businesses, the phrase “mom and pop shops” almost always is mentioned. For Westlake-based Sibling Revelry, the phrase hits home, albeit more appropriate as “sons and pops shop.”

Launched in 2016, Sibling Revelry was founded by Sean Kennedy along with his brother, Matt, and their cousins, Michael and Todd Kennedy. Joining the quartet were their fathers, Mike and Bert Kennedy. In all, six founders separated only by the Cuyahoga River.

“Forever, it’s always been the ‘Eastside Kennedys’ and the ‘Westside Kennedys,’” Sean Kennedy said. “We have all been involved in different family businesses but wanted to find something for us, and the rest of the family, to do together.

“We founded Sibling Revelry on the belief that we could create something as a family that would represent us and feed a passion for craft beer.”

The Sibling Revelry brewery and tap room, located on Clemens Road in Westlake, has grown ahead of schedule, according to Kennedy. The momentum has allowed for planned expansion recently announced to increase its barrel-aging program, production space and size of its taproom.

Today, Sibling Revelry has 15 full-time employees plus an additional two dozen

hired as part-time wait staff and bartenders. The company’s beers are available at 900 sites throughout Northeast Ohio including Giant Eagle, Heinen’s Fine Foods, Dave’s Markets, and Marc’s stores. Sibling Revelry’s beers also are available at the home stadiums of the Cleveland Indians, Cavaliers and Browns.

“Sibling Revelry is a family-owned business, made up of guys who have been involved in several different family-run businesses, so it’s important to us to work with other businesses located in the region,” Kennedy said. “That’s why we work with local suppliers, vendors, so it was a natural fit to work with Buckeye.”

Using Buckeye Community Bank to launch Sibling Revelry was automatic, according to Kennedy, because the family has partnered with the Buckeye team for various personal and business products.

“For Sibling Revelry, it is not just about creating a successful business, it also is a display of real craftsmanship mixed with some family fun and passion,” said Ben Norton, Buckeye Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “We have enjoyed a strong relationship with the Kennedy family throughout the years, and Buckeye was honored to be their partner as they made the brewery a reality and continued its growth.”



## SHARE THE SPIRIT

### Buckeye Helps Local Students Start Right

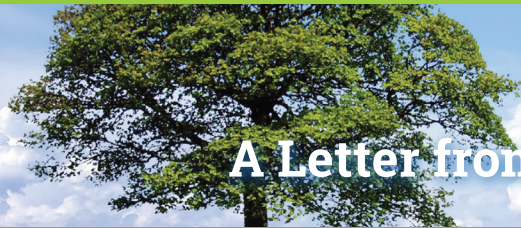
Students at Clearview Local Schools received a helping hand this school year when the Buckeye Community Bank family donated more than \$1,200 in school supplies. The materials went to students and teachers in kindergarten through fourth grade at Vincent Elementary School.

The idea for a school kick-off drive was generated by Buckeye’s Employee Relations Committee. Buckeye’s Chief Operating Officer Ben Norton approached Clearview Local Schools Treasurer Sean Nuccio, a bank customer, for ways the team could help students in the district.

“We saw this as a great opportunity for Buckeye Community Bank to help local students start off on the right foot because as they succeed, our community thrives,” Norton said. “We were proud to partner with Clearview Local Schools and hoped this helps to ensure the students and teachers have the tools needed to dream – and achieve – big things.

“It made us proud to have 100 percent of the employees participating, plus several customers contributing, to help meet the growing need for school supplies and lend a hand to some great local educators, many who continue to purchase supplies for their classroom.”

Donations collected for the students included bookbags, notebook paper, scissors, as well as binders, markers, glue sticks and much more to assist the students.



## A Letter from the President

Bruce E. Stevens  
President



Through the efforts of the staff to meet and exceed our clients' financial needs, we continue to prosper. The commitment to the clients' prosperity leads to a sense of loyalty of the bank to client and thus the client to bank. We are dependent on each other in both good and challenging times. This sense of mutually shared goals is a centerpiece of the bank.

These attributes and this commitment to excellence have been exhibited by Steve Wright throughout his career. It was his sense of an inability to meet local client needs that drove Steve to approach Billy Rowland with the idea of a community bank dedicated to serving the requirements of the local business community. Buckeye Community Bank came into existence through the efforts of community leaders along with counsel from banking professionals and the investment community. The value proposition of the bank from these mutual shared client-based goals is greater today than at inception.

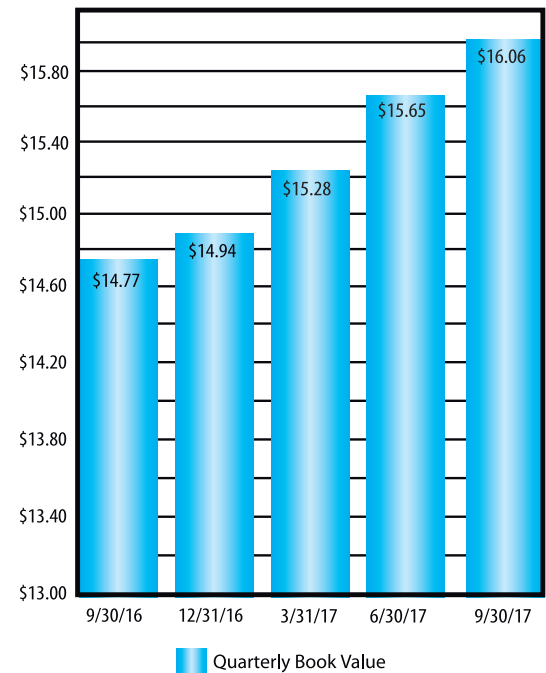
The recent exit of the two of the largest financial institutions in the market has only increased the benefit that a local in-market bank delivers to the community. It will be the challenge of those who follow in the footsteps of Billy and Steve to understand the covenant with the client and execute the bank's responsibilities in that relationship. One of Steve's more recent efforts on a client's behalf is assisting the startup and growth of the Kennedy family's Sibling Revelry. It is an honor to serve clients like the Kennedys, who have proven to be a successful entrepreneurial presence in our marketplace. It remains our responsibility to enhance and continue relationships with businesses in our community.

The bank has entered into a period of transitioning from individuals that were here at inception to a group of dedicated officers and board members. This transitioning has been an ongoing process during the past several years, and I assure you that the board, management and staff are aware of our responsibilities and are up to the task. Our solid financial performance arises from our dedication to client needs.

Steve and Billy's vision gave life to the Buckeye Community Bank, and the shared loyalty between the bank and its clients has kept it alive and has allowed it to continue to grow. The original and transitioning staff and board have managed and supported the process along the way. The continued prosperity of the bank comes from everyone continuing to do their part, and the strong financial performance validates that the formula works. Buckeye's earnings per share increased once again from \$1.08 in the third quarter of 2016 to \$1.12 in the current third quarter, and the book value per share went from \$14.77 to \$16.06 for an increase of 8.73%. The bank is tracking to still hit the budgeted goal of \$1.50 in earnings per share for year end, and with the continued support of our clients and staff, the bank's value proposition will continue to be preserved and increase.

*May you have a blessed Holiday Season!*

## FINANCIAL POSITION



Buckeye Bancshares, Inc. stock may be available for sale in the near future.

If you are interested, please contact Bruce Stevens at 440-233-8806 or [bestevens@buckeyebank.com](mailto:bestevens@buckeyebank.com).

This is the increase in book value of Buckeye Bancshares, Inc. Due to the limited availability and inactive market of any community bank stock, market value may differ. This is a reflection of past performance of Buckeye Bancshares, Inc. and should not be considered a projection of future performance. Funds held in corporate stock are not insured by the FDIC or any other government agency. Investments involve varying degrees of risk, including loss of principal.



## Protecting Your Online Holiday Security



As the holiday season approaches, online shopping can sometimes be more convenient as the temperatures continue to drop in Northeast Ohio. According to a recent National Retail Federation report, more of us are expected to buy gifts online this year. However, while we may be filled with holiday cheer when shopping online, there are many with malicious intentions roaming in the digital space. A couple of tips to keep you and your money safe this holiday season include:

### Ensure You're Shopping on Real Sites

When buying from online sites like Amazon or Walmart, make sure you are actually on the official, secured site and not a fake site mimicking it. Check the web address of the site you are visiting to shop and be wary of sites with weird designs, broken language or irregular addresses.

### Check for Updates to Your Browser, Antivirus and Device Software

Before starting to shop – and routinely throughout the year – make sure your sensitive information is protected by updating the operating system and programs you use on

your computer, phone and tablet. A little time spent updating your device can reap the benefits of new features and improved security.

### Keep a Record to Check Your Account

Record what you bought, when and where, or print out receipts, and then compare the purchases to your credit card statements to be confident that both align. Buckeye Community Bank's online account access can help you keep track in real time to ensure nothing has been charged to your account that is not authorized by you.

### Review a Seller's Ratings

If you must purchase a gift from a retailer you have not used before, check first to find out if the seller is legitimate and how they handle customers. Finding out about other buyers' experiences through Google Shopping or the Better Business Bureau's online database provides a reliable report of what you might encounter and retailers you should avoid.

### Confirm the Checkout is Secure

Never, ever enter your credit card information on a page that is unencrypted. Look for "https" in the online checkout address. The extra "s" along with a padlock icon in the address bar shows that you are using an encrypted connection to transmit your credit card information to the seller.

### Create Strong Passwords

Often the weakest link is our passwords. A poor one can be easily guessed, so be sure you create a secure password that is harder to discern. Use a password with eight or more characters, a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Avoid common words and change it regularly.

## Use Buckeye Alerts to Enhance Your Security

Increase your protection online by enabling some or all of the alert options available through Buckeye Community Bank. Your NetTeller account can provide alert notifications via email or let you know as soon as you log into your online account. To activate your Buckeye Alerts, just log into Buckeye Online Banking, click on Options tab and select the Alerts tab to get started.

Buckeye's real-time alerts can keep you informed of specific events, items posting, balances and personal items.

- **EVENT ALERTS** allow you to receive notification of events such as non-sufficient funds (NSF), CD and loan maturity notices, and changes to your email or mobile address
- **BALANCE ALERTS** provide the opportunity to receive a notification when an account hits a specific level so that you can track items and transfer funds
- **ITEM ALERTS** notify you when an item that you are awaiting posts to your account
- **PERSONAL ALERTS** can be set to remind you of special events like a birthday, anniversary or any event you want to remember

Alerts are sent to you direct by email or displayed when you log into your online account. If you select to be alerted when logging in, the alert shows on your account's home page.

An upcoming enhancement for your security will require you to change your password on a regular basis.

## Buckeye Cash Management Service Offers Needed Options

Amid the numerous demands on your time, one of the most critical aspects for your business success is the effective management of cash flow. Effective cash management can lead to a smooth-running, prosperous business.

Buckeye Community Bank offers the cash management tools needed to provide you with immediate information to help you drive profitability. These services help you stay on top of your daily finances enabling you to make informed business decisions.

Buckeye's effective cash flow management options include:

### Automated Clearing House (ACH) Origination

- Disburse employee payroll through direct deposit, make vendor payments or collect reoccurring monthly billings
- Initiate same day ACH credit files and debit files

### Positive Pay Check Fraud Detection

- Issue your checks and create a file with details that are matched with the incoming checks to be paid

- If a non-match occurs, you have the opportunity to approve or deny the check(s)

### CheckCollect Plus

- Collection of personal-size checks deposited that are returned for non-sufficient funds up to \$25,000 at no charge

### Convenient, Secure Cash Vault Service

- Designed for companies that transact a significant portion of their business through the exchange of cash
- Offers increased safety by using armored carriers for delivery or pickup of cash
- Placing your currency and coin orders

To learn more about these and other business-focused services, please call Diana Fredriksen at 440-233-3939 or Sarah Smith at 440-233-3925.



# Buckeye

COMMUNITY BANK

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## Happy Retirement Trails: Steve Wright

In the mid-1990s, Steve Wright saw the increasing disappearance of banks with deep local roots as a threat to the local economy. What started out as a seed of an idea from a conversation with a trusted colleague grew to the creation of a community-based financial institution specifically focused on serving the needs of local businesses.

After 18 years with Buckeye Community Bank and nearly four decades of banking in Lorain County, Wright, Buckeye Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, has announced his retirement.

"It's satisfying to see what has been built at Buckeye," said Wright, who started his career more than 35 years ago at Central Trust. "There was a real need and opportunity to serve the small and mid-sized businesses in our communities. Over the years, I had witnessed several

acquisitions of local banks, and it appeared that they were moving away from serving the businesses that are vital to our area."



A conversation with Wright's close friend, David Voight, caused him to start discussing the idea of creating a community business-focused bank with business leaders, including Billy Rowland and Gene McMahon. After several conversations, Wright thought interest had cooled, but Rowland called a few months later to say he had

a group that was interested in launching Buckeye Community Bank.

"Steve was instrumental in the opening and growth of Buckeye Community Bank, and we have benefited from his leadership and vision," Buckeye President and CEO Bruce Stevens said. "We appreciate his unrivaled integrity and extraordinary insights. His presence will be greatly missed."

Wright said the journey has been rewarding, and Buckeye has had rough patches like every new business, including proving naysayers wrong when it launched in October 1999 – just weeks ahead of the then-worrisome Y2K.

"Our goals continue to grow and create value for our customers, our shareholders and our community," Wright said. "We continue to grow at a good pace by serving our customers and being able to create the right environment to support our employees. It has been a fantastic ride."

The smallest act  
of kindness  
is worth more than the  
grandest intention.

Oscar Wilde