

Forjak Industrial developing Circleville property

- By Steven Collins Senior Reporter, The Circleville Herald
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CIRCLEVILLE — Forjak Industrial plans to open a new site in Circleville later this winter, something that owner Adam Logan said wasn't even a dream for him to happen.

Logan, a Circleville High School graduate in 2000, created Forjak in 2001 and invented a system to apply commercial buildings with paint in a more streamlined way, called Better Faster Finish Painting System or B.F.F. System. The company provides paint coatings and general maintenance for commercial and industrial businesses.

"We're super excited," he said of the decision to come to Circleville. "We're a little nervous and a little bit of everything. I recently had someone ask me if it was my dream to come here and I told them I never even dreamt this could be the case. It's a neat thing that we're doing. The potential here is ridiculous. There's just so much potential."

Logan said that part of this was a business decision but it goes beyond that. The new plant location is at 544 Clinton St., Circleville.

"There's definitely a huge part of it that's pride and with that there's excitement," he said. "The emotion that I did not think that I would feel is the added stress on myself and others, like my sister who works at Forjak. Failure is one thing, but to fail where you're from is an interesting emotion. We can't fail here. We don't want to let Circleville down."

Logan noted they're planning on using the Circleville location to be their presence in Ohio. Most of their business is from out-of-state.

"We work outside the state of Ohio more than we do in it, but we wanted to have a central Ohio presence," he said. "This is one of the big reasons why we did it."

Logan discussed how they plan to be up and running by mid-March and had nothing but good things to say about local leadership and what they brought to the table in the decision to locate here.

"I have been super taken aback by how helpful and how welcoming everyone has been when it relates to people in public positions," he said. "Ryan Scribner [economic director at Pickaway Progress Partnership] is one of Pickaway County's best assets I think. I've had many conversations with my family where I told them that he's doing it and Pickaway County should be super thrilled to have him. The mayor's been very positive."

Logan described how the small town attitude is a refreshing thing where in Columbus you can feel like a small fish in a big pond versus a big fish in a small pond like Circleville.

"It's refreshing to deal with municipalities that don't treat you as a number. In Columbus, nobody cares and you're just a number to them but the small town attitude is totally different," he said.

For Scribner and Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), the economic development entity for Pickaway County, said the building they'll be occupying, which was formerly housing Crane Plastics has been vacant for many years.

"It's an interesting building, because it has industrial space but it also has office space," he said. "It's a weird fit to try to find a building. If you don't use a building you lose it. We don't want blight and there was potential there. When I first heard they had interest in the building, I was really excited. I knew a little bit about the company and they have a reputation for being successful but they do really well by their employees."

Scribner noted the project was in an area where it was needed following General Electric's closing in recent years.

"It's a great project, a great shot in the arm for the city and it's a great project that will utilize a building that's been unutilized that will put it in better shape than it has been," he said. "It's a great win all-around. Anytime you can inject some life into a part of town that's not seen any investment in a long time is a good thing. It's certainly a win for Circleville."

Scribner said the city provided some tax incentives to help make the development more financially feasible for the company.

"When you take an old building that's been un-utilized for a long time and you modify it to make it fit their use they're making a big investment in the facility," he said. "There's some need there. That's what played out at City Council in the form of a tax credit that will sustain an investment they're making into the city. It's going to result in about 30 new jobs, a real nice payroll associated with that. As they're successful and continue to be successful there's the potential for growth."

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