

Forjak officially opens

- By Steven Collins Senior Reporter
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CIRCLEVILLE — Circleville's newest development is now open for business.

Forjak Industrial opened its industrial blast plant officially Thursday after several months of work to prep their Clinton Street location.

Adam Logan, a 2000 graduate of Circleville High School and son of former Mayor Mike Logan owns Forjak. Logan created Forjak in 2001, developing a system to apply commercial buildings with paint in a more streamlined way. That process is called Better Fast Finish Painting System or B.F.F. System.

Logan said while Thursday is the plant's official ribbon cutting and grand opening, they have taken on a couple of jobs including one from out of state.

"The big obstacle for the last six months has been getting this place ready," Logan said. "We've done pretty much everything here ourselves and that has taken time."

"The wheels are starting to turn and I'm tired of erecting things," he said. "I'd like to actually do some work efficiently."

Logan said the Circleville location is a different type of business than what they do in Columbus. He said they're already planning an expansion for the plant in about 18 months.

"[The Columbus location] does all of our architectural painting, our service work, and all of our concrete restoration," he said. "None of that will happen here. It's the same company but a different division. It's under the same umbrella."

Unlike its Columbus location where employees travel a bit for business, Logan said most business will come to the Circleville site.

"Having shifts and scheduled times and a factory mentality is so different for us," he said. "I've had the company for 18 years and we've never had a sales person. Because of the type of business we have, we've brought on a sales person. We brought them on in February."

Logan said one of the reasons they chose to move here, in addition to his hometown roots, is the height of the building and how it meets their needs to be able to paint and blast some of the bigger pieces of equipment.

"If something is 12 feet tall, you need to be 16 feet off the ground and most commercial buildings are 14 to 16 feet tall and that's to the roof deck," he said. "To get a building that's 22 to 24 feet tall is very expensive. This was a custom building for Aeroplastics. We looked at

properties from Zanesville to Mount Gilead to Chillicothe and there were only two we felt were big enough.”

Logan said after crunching the numbers and looking at the building he knew it would work.

“Once we ran the numbers we knew that it would work on paper,” he said. “Half this company is from Circleville or within 10 minutes of here. This is like being home. I stay at my parents house twice a week. Circleville has changed since I moved out almost 20 years ago, but it’s home. The people are so much nicer here and everyone’s excited. The government piece of this has been super easy to work with. We’re thrilled to be in Circleville.”

Logan said they’re currently running two shifts and as soon as they have more people hired on, they’ll start a third. One of the four wings of the building will be used to educate and train new employees for the company.

“I have two goals, one is to have people lined up out the door because it says a lot about your company, and two is to be a self-sustaining company,” he said. “People are going to leave and people are going to stay. But, if people are only going to be here a year or two, the faster we educate them the more likely they are to produce and become efficient. We believe the cost to educate is a heck of a lot cheaper than the cost not to.”

Ryan Scribner, executive director for Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), Circleville’s and Pickaway County’s economic development entity, said the project is a great shot in the arm for the city, especially since it is occupying a building that has been empty since 2003.

“It’s a great win all-around,” he said. “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.”