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42

Lime City Manufacturing under new ownership

BY JENNIFER PERYAM
jperyam@h-ponline.com

Lime City Manufacturing has been under new ownership since January 1.

The announcement was made during Friday's Lime City Economic Development Committee meeting at the business.

Cory and Mandy Reber have purchased the manufacturing facility. They have owned the automotive service center, Reber's Repair, in Huntington since 2006. They opened Reber's Repair in Warren in 2012. They will continue to own and operate both shops.

The Rebers purchased Lime City Manufacturing from Randy Rider.

"I had worked here as a tool and die maker in the past at the business from the '90s to 2006. It is a good, solid staple in the community as far as a place of employment," Cory said.

Lime City Manufacturing has been in business since 1941. It produces terminals, brackets, shallow drawn components, automotive chassis, interior support brackets and mold inserts.

Mandy, who serves as the Boys and Girls Club of Huntington County's executive director, and will remain in that capacity, said there are 15 employees at Lime City. The average employee has been employed at the business for over 15 years.

"Of the 15 employees, 13 live in Huntington County. They are dedicated. We hope to get new jobs here and continue to grow," Mandy said.

The customer base is across North America, with the largest customer population in Indiana.

Brooks Fetters, Huntington mayor, congratulated the Rebers on keeping the business local.

"There are some great people here at Lime City and we are excited about what is happening in this part of town," Fetters said.

Mark Wickersham, Huntington County Economic Development executive director, said that Lime City has been in business since 1941 and will continue with local ownership.

"They will keep the company in Huntington and continue to grow and operate so we have an opportunity for the company that was founded here to continue here," Wickersham said.

Also during the meeting, the committee heard from Wickersham that the December unemployment rate in Huntington County is 3.4 percent and the industrial vacancy rate is down 4 percent.

Anthony Goodnight, city of Huntington director of public works and engineer-

ing services, said the Etna Avenue storm sewer project will be completed by the end of October. The project includes new curb and gutter.

Larry Buzzard, Huntington County Commissioner president, said the county is working on an enclosure at the jail for an area for counseling for inmates.

"The area will be defined for counseling, visitation and exercise," Buzzard said.

He also said software upgrades to the county's dispatch software will be completed this summer.

Steve Kimmel, Huntington County Chamber of Commerce director, said the chamber is working on putting together a mentor group to help discuss bringing businesses to the community.

The group will consist of 10 people who currently own businesses and are starting a new business.