

Public servant — in the spotlight Many people and agencies studying alternative energy in Ohio



INQUIRER PHOTO/JENNIFER ERWIN
Rick Liberti has been a clerk at the U.S. Post Office in Galion 15 years, as of May. His job description is to sort mail and maintain the window. Before accepting the job as main window clerk, Liberti was a mail carrier in Mansfield. He said he chose to work in Galion because he was familiar and comfortable with the employees at the post office and liked the small town feel of the area.

By **PATTY RICE GROTH**
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Who is involved in alternative energy in Ohio? Actually, the state's Department of Development, the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, and the Farm Bureau are working together to promote alternative energy development across Ohio. In April, representatives from this group participated in a presentation and discussion hosted by The Ohio State University extension service and the economic development offices in Wyandot County.

There are significant financial commitments in place or pending to support alternative energy development in Ohio. Grant and loan programs of amounts ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million are available to local governments, businesses and individuals looking at solar and/or wind energy programs.

Megan Zemke, assistant to the energy advisor at the air quality development authority, said the application process takes about eight months, though the agency is working hard to improve the process. Zemke

pointed out job stimulus loans are as much for small businesses as they are for large. There are both state and federal tax advantages to programs funded through the air quality development authority. She encourages anyone interested in learning more about the agency's programs to visit its Web site at www.ohioairquality.org.

Zemke said rural energy options are included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus programs, with guidelines and regulations coming in daily.

Prevailing wage requirements continue to be a major concern, along with some "buy American" provisions of the legislation which are causing some confusion.

Renewable energy networks of Ohio manufacturers are also being formed to help Ohio move forward in this area. Establishing energy supply chains and related studies are already under way, with Internet presences being established.

On May 1, 2008, Ohio's Assembly enacted landmark legislation with respect to energy, said Rebecca Gray, business development manager of the state Department of Development. Senate Bill

221 sets forth the state's advanced energy portfolio standard calling for 25 percent of Ohio's energy to come from alternative sources by 2025, with annual targets to get the state there on time. Half of that target must come from renewable sources in that same time-frame.

Gray pointed out the \$2,000 ceiling on federal tax credits for installing residential solar renewable energy has been lifted. Credits are available for small wind projects "placed in service" between Jan. 1, 2006, and the end of 2016.

Dale Arnold is director of energy services of the Ohio Farm Bureau. Fifteen of his 25 years in the farm bureau have been spent working in the energy sector. A number of people attending the conference were landowners interested in learning how to take advantage of wind and solar technologies to generate power for their own use as well as to feed into the power grid.

Solar installations in this part of the country tend to take up large tracts of land — 80 to 100 acres — which then become unavailable for

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COMMUNITY MEETING:

Safe routes to school

The Galion City School District will be hosting a community meeting for input on the Safe Routes to School Program. The Safe Routes to School Program is a federal program which offers grant funding up to \$250,000 for infrastructure projects and up to \$50,000 for non-infrastructure projects. The program is administered by the Ohio Department of Transportation and is intended to help communities improve walking and bike access to schools located in high traffic zones.

The meeting will provide information of the Safe Routes to School Program and review the benefits that may result from our community's participation. There will also be an opportunity for open discussion of traffic concerns.

The meeting will be held Monday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Galion Middle School. For questions or further information, please contact Superintendent Kathy Jenney at 419-468-3432 ext. 1001.

CPL closed today

The Crestline Public Library will be closed today to allow the staff to attend conferences in Columbus. The library will reopen Saturday at 9 a.m.



INQUIRER PHOTO/PATTY RICE GROTH
People attending the program on alternative energy resources were so interested in the topic, they didn't want to leave after the program, instead taking advantage of the opportunity to network with state energy officials and each other.

INSIDE TAKE A LOOK

Special Olympics

Photos of local competitors on page 6.



Tomorrow's Weather



Occasional showers
High 72/low 42

School news

Takes three pages to include it all -- see pages 2, 3, and 10

To subscribe, call
419-468-1117
Office hours:
M - F 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Shrine Tabloid Days

proclaimed by City Council

Shriners Hospitals for Crippled and Burned Children treat children beset with the tragedies of disease, birth defects and accidents, free of charge to all children regardless of race, creed, national origin or relationship to a Shriner, so that they may live their lives to the fullest.

Shriners Hospitals are open to all crippled or burned children from infancy to eighteen years of age whose parents are unable to pay or if such special care is not otherwise available.

An all-Ohio Shrine program, of which Aladdin Temple of Columbus is a part, called the Shriners of Ohio Hospital Program, has been adopted by the six Shrine Temples in Ohio.

On May 8 and 9, 2009, a special newspaper will be given away by Shriners to generate contributions to this worthy cause and to tell the story of the Shrine and the treatment of crippled and burned children within Shriners Hospitals.

Richard L. Swain, president of Galion City Council, has proclaimed May 8-9, 2009 as: "Shrine Tabloid Days" in Galion, and urge the members of our community to join in recognition of this significant occasion and the achievements above mentioned.

Sure sign of spring — bridge work



INQUIRER PHOTO/DEB PHILLIPS
One Lane Bridge out on Twp. Road 51 east of Ohio 61 in Washington Township.

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| <p>Locally Owned, Operated and Community Involved 230 Portland Way N. 419-468-9331 Prices Effective May 3 thru May 9</p> | <p>5 lb. Bag Extra Fine Granulated Flavorite Sugar Flavorite \$2.69</p> | <p>Fresh, Cool & Refreshing Sweet Red Ripe Seedless Watermelon Cuts 58¢ LB.</p> | <p>17.53 to 18.25 oz. Pkg. Selected Varieties Duncan Hines Moist Deluxe Cake Mix 98¢</p> | <p>6 Count. Pkg. Selected Varieties Land O'Lakes Butter 10 FOR \$10</p> |
| | <p>Chef Boyardee Pasta 7.25 to 15 oz. Pkg. Selected Varieties 10 FOR \$10</p> | <p>Farm Fresh Choice Beef Chuck Boneless Black Angus English Roast \$1.98 LB.</p> | <p>10 FOR \$10</p> | |