



The Barberton Herald



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PPG carries industry into the technological age



HERALD PHOTO/Karla Tipton

Plant manager Ted Ladd points out the oldest standing building in a vintage photo of the plant. The multi-purpose building now houses the company's newest technologies.

Karla Tipton
Herald Staff Writer

Many residents have family ties to PPG Industries, which has been a mainstay of the area for more than a hundred years.

Facilities administrator Betty Naswadi said, "When somebody asks where do you work, and you say PPG, they

say, 'oh, my uncle worked there, or my grandfather worked there, and they say it with such jubilation.' Naswadi has been employed at the plant since 1961.

Plant history

The plant was built at a junction of waterways and railroads, with easy access to fuel, salt and limestone,

on the old Boughman farm. Today it straddles Barberton, Norton and New Franklin on 2,600 acres, with current operations taking place within 300 acres. Over the past 119 years, the company has gone through several name changes, occasional rapid growth and a major reduction of workforce

when the soda ash, chlorine, and caustic soda production shut down in the 1970s. For a long time known as Pittsburgh Plate Glass, the name was changed to PPG Industries in 1968.

The company now provides jobs for about 150 personnel, but as demand increases for its newly developed products, PPG is creating additional positions. These jobs will be filled from a regional pool of workers, with ideal

candidates being graduates of Ohio and Pennsylvania colleges and universities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Innovative developments

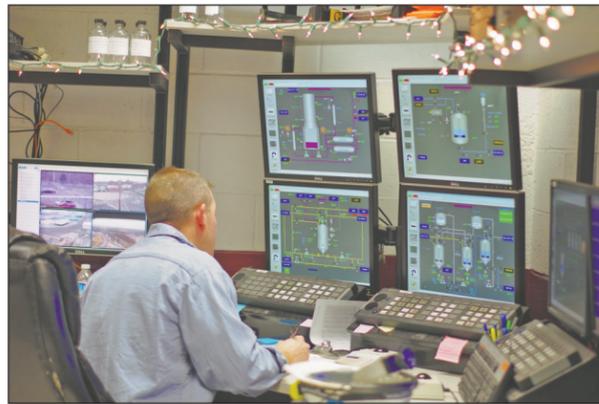
The company is carrying Barberton industry into the future with innovative developments in paper, plastics and light technologies. Among these is organic

light diode (OLED), which is the color-producing pieces used in many Samsung phones and LG products. Ironically, this development is done in the multi-purpose facility, which was built in the 1920s, making it one of the oldest buildings on the property.

The company also produces resins used for transitional eyewear lenses, made from CR-39, once produced by the company to coat aircraft bombers during World War II, as well as a special plastic film laminated into commercial and military aircraft windshields to keep them from shattering.

Since 1986, PPG has produced a versatile paper product, Teslin, which is used for ID cards, labels and books, among many other items. In addition, the company continues to produce some of its legacy products, such as silicas, both for flattening in paints,

(See PPG, Page 2)



HERALD PHOTO/Karla Tipton

In the CR-39 control center, a technician oversees the production of a product that dates back to World War II.

PD appreciates latest donation



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller

Police Patrolman and D.A.R.E. officer Kevin Starling and Chief John Dalessandro, accept the department's new D.A.R.E. vehicle from Adam Huff and Tom Dunn of the Fred Martin Superstore. The theme for the paint scheme is "The Thin Blue Line."

Jim Eritano
Herald Staff Writer

Fred Martin Superstore donated its ninth D.A.R.E. (Drug Enforcement Resistance Education) vehicle to the Norton Police Department.

Norton Police Chief John Dalessandro presented Fred Martin President Adam

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The race for America's Favorite Crossing Guard continues

Cierra Thompson
Herald Staff Writer

The Barberton Middle School crossing guard Oby Perdue received the second most votes in the online voting portion of the America's Best Crossing Guard contest, which ended Nov. 30.

He received 10,969 votes, only 49 less than the leader.

The efforts made on social media did not go unnoticed. Posts were shared daily on Facebook encouraging people to vote.

Perdue will be recognized by Barberton City Council Monday Dec. 10 for his outstanding performance. The legislation was brought forward during the safety committee meeting Dec. 3.

"This is a guy that is caught in a fairytale, I'm

caught in an awesome adventure," said Perdue.

"This journey has really been awesome and regardless of where I place, to the people in Barberton we're all No. 1," said Perdue.

Perdue was born and raised in Barberton and looks forward to seeing where this journey takes him.

The five who receive the most votes will be considered finalists. The sponsors of the contest are Safe Kids Worldwide and FedEx. On Monday Dec. 17, the panel will evaluate the finalists and pick the top three.

The first place winner will receive \$500 worth of clothing and accessories. The affiliated school will receive \$10,000 to go to pedestrian



HERALD PHOTO/Cierra Thompson

Oby Perdue engages with pedestrians and waves at every bus and car that passes by.

safety. Safe Kids will come to the winning school to celebrate with a pep rally.

The second place school will receive \$7,500 and the third place \$5,000.

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Christmas season warmly welcomed

Rich Muller
Herald Staff Writer

Christmas music by Norton middle and high school band members and songs by the high school choir highlighted Norton's Christmas in the Park.

After turning on the lights in Columbia Woods Park guests moved to the community center for

cider, cookies and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Dec. 1 event has been sponsored for more than 35 years by the Women's Club and city officials. "It's so nice to see all the wonderful families and friends come out for a great occasion," Kim Bergstrom of the club said. "We're so happy to be together here tonight."



HERALD PHOTO/Rich Muller

Colton, 4, and Carter, 6, share their wishes with Santa and Mrs. Claus during Christmas in the Park activities.



Jack, 5, discovers a battery powered candle at the Columbia Woods Park pavilion.

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PPG

(Continued from Front)

varnishes and lacquers, and for food-based products.

PPG's products touch everyone, said Naswadi. "If you think about it, our

products are being used for eyeglasses, medical prescriptions, toothpaste, tennis shoe soles, and even Doritos."

"Really, we have kind of reinvented ourselves," said Ted Ladd, Barberton plant manager.

Reinventing the future

In the middle of the last century, when known as the Columbia Chemical Company, the plant earned various nicknames, including the "old sody ash" plant and later, simply, "The Chemical." Back then, the impacts of chemicals on both humans and the environment were not well understood. On a local history Facebook page, one resident wrote, "(I) remember the chemical pond and how the vapors were always coming off it, and the smell."

PPG management is committed to putting those negative associations to rest with the strict enforcement of work safety protocols and adherence to environmental regulations. According to company literature, emissions have been reduced 80 percent since 1988.

In 1984, the Lime Lakes Reclamation Project was initiated by the company, grown out of a sense of responsibility, and not because of regulatory necessity, according to Ladd. The project involves carefully controlled municipal sludge being mixed with lime to fill, vegetate and prevent run-off from migrating offsite and getting into the water table. "We have a community advisory committee of local members from Barberton, Norton and New Franklin, and regularly update them on how we are moving forward on the project," said Ladd. He estimates the next phase should be completed by mid-summer 2019.



HERALD PHOTO/Karla Tipton

PPG's product CR-39 is used in transitional eyewear lenses.

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FROM THE FRONT

DARE

(Continued from Front)

Huff and Tom Dunn with a plaque thanking them at the special city council meeting Dec. 3.

The donation is a 2018 Dodge Ram Big Horn truck. Its main function will be to accompany D.A.R.E. officers when they present the drug resistance program to students.

Dalessandro thanked Huff and Dunn and the years of cooperation between the dealership and the police department. Norton police vehicles are purchased from the Fred Martin Superstore.

Mayor Mike Zita also expressed thanks.

"We as the city of Norton appreciate all the help we get from the business. We're glad you're here in the city," Zita said.

Brother remembered

Dalessandro said he has a folder of all the D.A.R.E. vehicles the dealership has donated since 1999, when he was a D.A.R.E. officer. The first, he said, was a Jeep Liberty.

"Over the years, when we got our D.A.R.E. vehicles we would go over [to the dealership] and we'd take a picture with everybody. This year, there's someone missing," Dalessandro said, turning to Huff. "That's your brother Duane. He was always a supporter of the police department, and I added a line to the plaque that says, 'In memory of Duane Huff.'"

Galonski elected to state post

State Rep. Tavia Galonski (D-Akron) was unanimously elected as chairwoman of the Ohio House Democratic Women's Caucus (OHDWC).

The mission of the OHDWC is to educate, empower and energize women in order to increase their leadership within state government. The OHDWC helps to empower women and families across the state by providing information and training for advocates of women's equality. Galonski will begin her role at the start of the 133rd General Assembly.

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