



Miami Township Breakfast with the Board welcomes Huffy CEO

Huffy notes potential for growth and bike paths as township strengths

Learning to ride a bicycle is one of life's notable milestones. Riders outgrow the tricycles and the training wheels to ultimately master the two-wheeler, despite a few scraped knees along the way. While the Huffy Corporation has long supplied recreational rides, it too knows the obstacles of outgrowing what one loves.



Huffy President and CEO Bill Smith shared that very message at Miami Township's Breakfast with the Board Oct. 18, hosted by the Austin Park Apartments. He was the guest speaker to a packed house of township business leaders who gathered to share their latest business endeavors. Huffy is in the process of moving its world headquarters from Centerville to the Newmark Center in Miami Township.

"We outgrew our space in Centerville. We needed some space that was not only bigger, but also afforded us the ability for future expansion," Bill Smith, president and CEO, Huffy Corporation, said. "We ship a lot of bikes, but we have to design and market them first."

Smith says another attraction is the seven miles of recreational bike trails that weave through the township and connect to surrounding trails in the area.

"The bike paths are a great asset. When we bring our customers in, we like to get them on bicycles. Not only do we get them out on bicycles, but we can get them out on the bike path. It's a whole different environment than the one we were living in," Smith said. "We can now ride our bikes to lunch. What a great asset to have for a bicycle company."

Huffy brings a 125-year history with it to Miami Township. What the Davis Sewing Machine Company started in 1892, has evolved into the number one supplier of bicycles in the United States, manufacturing millions of bicycles for all ages, scooters, and battery-powered ride-ons. Smith says the future holds the possibility of electric bikes and the soon-to-be released, easy-to-assemble bicycles sold online.

“It will fundamentally change our business,” Smith said. “We’re getting ready to launch a no-tool required bicycle where things just snap together, so it makes it much easier for the consumer to put together at home. It will help those who might not be mechanically inclined.”

Smith says about 100 employees will move with the company from Centerville to Miami Township. He says about a dozen new hires were made in recent months, with up to 20 more expected in the next year.

The superintendent of the West Carrollton City School District also made remarks during the breakfast. Andrea Townsend, Ed.D., says the district is focused on improving instructional programs through more professional development initiatives. The next Breakfast with the Board is scheduled for Feb. 14, 2018, hosted by the Homewood Suites.



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