



Chillicothe Fire & Security

Let our family keep your family safe



December 2023

Hello there! We have decided to write an end of the year newsletter. This is our first one. My name is Angie Lochbaum. My husband and I bought the business 9 years ago from my parents: Dick & Clara Kutschbach. I thought working through COVID was our hardest year but in fact 2023 I think we had more ups and downs with our business and personal lives than ever. We felt we took one step forward and three backwards. We struggled with employees (or lack of), with health issues, product delays, price increases, and deaths. We also had many joys as well. We moved to a new location, we hired new employees, we received grants, we had our youngest graduate college, we have added two exchange students to the mix, and a great nephew.

However, we wanted to thank our customers for their patience and understanding during these difficult times. I understand it has been crazy on our end with the cancellations and rescheduling, but we wanted to say THANK YOU for understanding and hanging with us. We know it hasn't been easy with our short staff, training new employees, sickness, deaths, and product delays. We have felt the stress as well. We are praying for a much smoother 2024. However, we couldn't have been successful without you and our staff. We want to say THANK YOU! Also, if you haven't stopped by our new location, please do. 1404 Delano Rd Chillicothe.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Larry, Angie Lochbaum , and the Staff of Chillicothe Fire & Security



This summer we added two of our three children as part time employees. Carter is helping us develop a bigger sales team and revamping our sales department. Bailey has been helping us with our social media accounts. It has been great to have them helping with our family business. If you haven't liked our Facebook page, yet please do.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Keeping dollars closer to home — that's the goal of an expansion project announced Thursday by Chillicothe Fire & Security, Inc., located in Green Township (Ross County). Chillicothe Fire & Security, in collaboration with JobsOhio, Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE) and the Greater Chillicothe and Ross County Development, unveiled plans to grow its sprinkler and fire suppression business by expanding to a larger production facility.

Chillicothe Fire & Security is a woman-owned business specializing in fire and protective solutions. Its fire protection business is 100-percent commercial.

Second-generation owners, Larry and Angie Lochbaum, purchased the company in 2014 from Angie's parents Dick and Clara Kutschbach, who purchased the company in 1987. With 28 years of experience in the fire and security business, Angie Lochbaum said the company will be adding DIY security and camera services so that customers can install their own equipment while still receiving high-quality customer service.

Lochbaum estimates her firm will be investing more than \$140,000 and eventually will create eight new jobs. Currently, the company has 10 employees.

"I'm so thankful I learned about the JobsOhio Inclusion Grant, and it was the right time. When I bought the business nine years ago, we had this vision of expanding," said Lochbaum. "Before COVID-19, we started looking into bigger spaces to rent. When the world shut down, we decided that was a sign we should wait. But this spring, years later, I was in my office checking email and I saw the announcement about Hometown Threads, and I thought it might be a way we can expand the business and offer these services to our community."

“We have the experience, we just needed help making it happen. Everyone at OhioSE was so helpful, and it was a very quick and easy process,” she continued. “We have moved into our new location at 1404 Delano and will now be able to hire more people and offer sprinkler inspections. We will have new recharging stations for fire extinguishers and a DIY storefront for security and camera systems.”

JobsOhio supported the project with a \$50,000 JobsOhio Inclusion Grant and Ohio Southeast Economic Development assisted the company with the grant process. The Greater Chillicothe & Ross County Development Department is offering Opportunity Fund support to the company.

“Chillicothe Fire & Security seized an opportunity to diversify their services and increase their market share,” comments Tammy Eallonardo, Director of Greater Chillicothe & Ross County Development. “This family-owned Ross County employer has been a staple in our community for years, and we appreciate their continued investment.”

“Chillicothe Fire & Security is an excellent entrepreneurial success story for Southeast Ohio,” said OhioSE President Mike Jacoby. “Angie has much to be proud of and has set the bar high for the industry. We and our partners at JobsOhio welcome the company’s continued growth in service and impact in Ross County.”



In July we lost a great man. In 1987 he had a dream; it was to become a business owner. With a can-do attitude and jack of all trades he decided he wanted to do this. For 27 years he owned and operated Chillicothe Fire & Security with his wife Clara. In 2014 they sold the business to his daughter Angie and son-in-law Larry. They had 19 years of experience. Dick worked side by side with Larry and Angie for those years teaching them everything he knew. Dick was married to Clara for 55 years. They had two daughters: Michelle and Angie. He was one of the best girl dads anyone could ask for. Dick was so proud when he became to grandpa to his first grandchild, Jordan and later he received two grandsons in one year, Carter and Colin. Plus, one step granddaughter, Justice. The grandchildren were the apple of his eye. Years later Dick and Clara finally got their wish and received their red headed grandbaby, Bailey. Although his health was failing over the years, he had a couple of wishes: He wanted to see Jordan get married-she was the oldest, Bailey to graduate from high school and later college. Although he couldn't

make it to North Carolina to see her in person, they watched it live. He was happy these wishes were fulfilled. Dick also found out that he would be a great grandpa and that it was a boy!

Dick was always the life of the party and always had a joke to tell sometimes it was even an inappropriate one. He was known to always embarrass us with them. On one of our road trips he told me that if he can bring a smile to just one person a day then he feels he is living and doing good. He stated that some many people are hurting and sad that he is just trying to brighten someone's day.

At his calling hours we were overwhelmed with the amount of people that stated how much they have learned from Dick. As his children and grandchildren, we know what we have learned from him but to hear others was quite humbling.

My dad was my biggest fan and my hardest critic. I know he was proud and loved me even when I disappointed him. He told me once I'm proud that you can stand up to me as an adult and ticks me off that I don't back down and is as stubborn as mom.

Although we were very close to him, we didn't see all the pain he was in, and his body was failing. It was me looking through pictures over the years to see how much his body was giving out. As his granddaughter stated, grandpa was tired of pain and was ready to be pain free. Although we miss him each day and all of us have grieved in different ways, we know one thing is certain, that he is now pain free and living the best life. As his youngest daughter I hope he will forever be proud of me and the decisions I have made for the business he bought over 35 years ago.