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## Schools, City, Complement Each Other

Local realtors showing homes in the Springboro area know one of the first questions they'll hear will be, "What about the schools?"

The answer can be a litany of superlatives with no sugar-coating needed. That's also true when home buyers ask about the City. Cooperatively, and sometimes in partnership, the school district and city government have created an enviable narrative.

Both have seen phenomenal growth since the late 1990s. Springboro's population in 1990 was about 6,000. Today, it nears 18,000, and almost half the households have school age children. Due to the large increase of students over the past few years, the district opened two new schools in 2006. Since then, the focus has been on savings through innovations, such as bringing the district preschool program in-house and the 2014-2015 energy efficiency project. "Those, and other efforts, allow us to complete \$4.8 million in capital improvements to our schools with no cost to the taxpayer," says John Pennell, the district's business manager.

"When our community achieves rankings among the best places to live and raise young families, we see how well our City and Schools truly complement each other," says Todd Petrey, school district superintendent.

Indeed, school district students met all 24 of the State Board of Education's 24 performance indicators, ranking it in the top seven percent of Ohio's 611 districts. The district also has the distinction of being named a 'Blue Ribbon' district in 2012 and achieved an "Excellent with Distinction" ranking from the state in state-wide tests.

The City has its share of accolades as well. *Business Insider* magazine named the city the "10th Best Suburb in America" last year. Several years ago, *CNN Money Magazine* tagged Springboro as the 42nd best place to

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## Nothing 'Amateur' About R.L. Drake Today

The R. L. Drake Company designs and sells electronic communication equipment primarily for the cable television industry, video signal distribution and digital video encoding equipment and more.

R. L. Drake company enjoys a significant presence worldwide – even a customer-owned museum that houses just about all R.L. Drake models. Visits, however, are virtual since the museum is on a small island near the Arctic Circle. Drake's products can be found at Camp David, on military bases, in hotels, hospitals, television networks and other venues.

The sales, design, prototyping and service functions moved recently from Franklin to an office on Pleasant Valley Drive. It's just a few miles but it has been a long journey in the evolution of the 70-plus year-old company history. Those first products included ham and amateur radios and associated equipment from the company started by Robert Drake, a radio design engineer in Miamisburg. The amateur radio market was flourishing in that post World War II consumer market. Those early Drake radios were easy to identify by their illuminated dials. Drake used small incandescent bulbs behind greenish-blue transparent plastic filters,

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## Warren County Small Business Development Alliance

### *City Partner:* Warren County SBDC

Warren County's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will continue to play a major role in supporting and helping the small businesses in Warren County and Springboro grow to the next level. Through the professional experience of two counselors, Mike Stater and Joe Schiesler, they are able to give professional counseling, technical assistance and training that entrepreneurs will need to be successful in the future.

The SBDC program provides high-impact, front line services designed to facilitate small business growth, job creation and access to capital. They provide confidential one-on-one business advising at no cost, management training and education programs and technical assistance to companies with up to 500 employees.

The SBDC program is a collaborative effort that links the resources of the private sector, educational community, chambers and municipalities and county government. This can be shown by the result of the first two years of operation in Warren County. In 24 months, the Warren County SBDC office has seen 223 clients and has helped to facilitate the investment of over \$2.3 million by new businesses in Warren County.

Springboro has benefitted with nine (9) companies taking advantage of the SBDC and their services since 2013.

The City of Springboro is a founding member of the SBDC and hopes that all of our local businesses can take advantage of their FREE services. If you would like to contact a Warren County SBDC advisor, you can call either Mike or Joe at 513-932-8145, ext. 5317 or check out the website at [www.warrencountysbdc.org](http://www.warrencountysbdc.org).

## Schools, City, Complement Each Other

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live in the United States. And just this year, *NerdWallet* ranked Springboro #1 in Ohio for Best Cities to Live for a Young Family.

With more than 800 full and part-time employees, the district stands as the largest employer in the City. "We have lots of local ties and whenever possible we purchase goods and services locally," says John.

The district and city joined forces for a significant upgrade of Wade Field in 2012. "That was both a time and financial partnership with the City and the result was a significant expansion of the athletic facilities available for students and community members," John says. The district and City also work closely and share resources and expertise during special events and emergencies.

"Our partnership with the City extends beyond the services that many people see such as snow removal. Having the support of local law enforcement and City leadership is absolutely essential to daily school operations. In turn, our buildings and facilities serve as a resource for the community to share. We encourage our students and staff to reach beyond our school walls and take active roles in Springboro by volunteering, taking on service projects and participating in the life of the community," says Petrey.

For more information, the school district website is [www.springboro.org](http://www.springboro.org). The city's website is [www.ci.springboro.oh.us](http://www.ci.springboro.oh.us).

## Springboro Turns 200!

Springboro is turning 200 years old in 2015. Happy Birthday Springboro!

In order to properly celebrate a milestone such as a 200th birthday, Springboro200, Inc., a non-profit organization, has been formed to coordinate the year long festivities to celebrate and commemorate the City's founding back in 1815.

The main source of information concerning the celebration will be the group's website at [www.boro200.com](http://www.boro200.com). Sponsorship opportunities are available to all local businesses. Please email the Springboro200 group at [bicentennial@boro200.com](mailto:bicentennial@boro200.com) for more information and sponsorship levels.



# 'Minds in Motion' Lives Up to its Mission

Gina Pangalangan envisioned a school that celebrates individualism and uniqueness. "I believe every child has the potential to become a successful student if they are given a stimulating and engaging setting where self-expression, leadership, and creativity are encouraged. I wanted an environment built on best teaching practices and brain research that would help children reach their full potential," she says. As a teacher, she might have chosen to home school her daughters. Instead, in 2002, she began a pre-school program, Minds In Motion Early Learning School. In 2005, she started The Academy at Minds In Motion, K-8th grade school.

This year, The Academy marks the 10th year of its unique approach to education. That approach centers on small class sizes, differentiated instruction, and challenging and meaningful experiences. The curriculum utilizes themes that incorporate all core subject areas. In addition, students have weekly Spanish, physical education, music and art classes.



"Children have multiple learning styles which drives our students' individualized learning plans. At Minds In Motion our students become masters of their unique areas. That's how we turn out creative, critical thinkers who are both caring individuals and independent thinkers. It's very different from classrooms where students are told to sit and listen."

Minds In Motion has always employed technology in the classroom. There is a Smart Board in every classroom, and starting in second grade, students have their own iPads. Before and after school enrichment programs include clubs and tutoring. Beyond the classroom, the school utilizes field trips, guest speakers, and community service organizations to enrich the learning experience.

While state mandated testing isn't required, students take a nationally recognized test each year so parents can view their child's progress in context. Parents are very involved with the school and Gina and the teaching staff place a high priority on communication.

The five acre campus includes Impact Point, a 7,300 sq. ft. building used for art, music, drama, fitness, and school-related special interest clubs. Soccer fields, basketball courts, two playgrounds, gardens and outdoor classrooms round out the campus. "We are committed to achieving excellence and inspiring innovation. We are developing the leaders of tomorrow."

The Academy, at 20 Eleanor Dr., is one of only two private, independent schools in the Dayton area. They are governed by a board comprised of parents, educators and community leaders and are also licensed by the state. Private schools are non-profit and funded by tuition, contributions and endowments. For additional information visit **AcademyMustangs.com** or call 937-748-1991. The school also has a presence on Facebook, YouTube and Pinterest.

# Nothing 'Amateur' About R.L. Drake Today

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making it an unofficial trademark. Many radios from the 50s and 60s remain in use today.

Andy Ruffin, Vice President of Sales, recounts the journey. He's been with Drake for 25 years and seen firsthand the evolution from analog to digital technology. "We used to have all functions in an 85,000 sq. ft. warehouse in the Franklin Business Park and we operated three shifts with about 100 employees. When we became a wholly owned subsidiary of Blonder Tongue Laboratories in early 2012 the manufacturing was moved to their factory in New Jersey," Andy recalled.

Blonder Tongue had been Drake's largest competitor. Today, the manufacturing, shipping and corporate offices are based at their headquarters in Old Bridge, NJ. "We've been happy with the transition. It's a good group to work with and we're maintaining both identities." Both companies have long-term, loyal customer base, he noted.

The 7,500 sq. ft. Springboro office houses seven engineers, two sales staff, one service technician, Andy and office manager Leah Green, also a long term employee. "Springboro is a great location. Our engineers commute from a wide area, Wilmington, Gratis, Xenia, Milford and elsewhere, so this is a really central location" Leah says.

Andy notes that "Springboro's reputation as a very business-friendly city was a big plus. Henkle Schueler Associates in Lebanon own the building and they were great in renovating the space to fit our needs. Plus, if we need anything they respond very quickly," Andy said.

The R.L. Drake website is at [www.rldrake.com](http://www.rldrake.com).



## Cats and Dogs Now Getting Well Adjusted

Becky Hartle holds the distinction of being one of just three Ohio chiropractors who hold membership in the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association and treats four-legged as well as two-legged patients.

Her routine of keeping abreast of the latest news, innovations and findings in her profession led her to this late-career educational journey. The road to providing chiropractic care for animals involved both a mental and physical journey. "After reading about chiropractors treating animals, I decided to take the 220 hour course leading to certification," she recalls. The coursework saw her commuting between her home in Springboro to classes in Dallas, TX. "I'd fly out on Wednesday and back home on Sunday." The course included in-depth veterinary studies, clinical, hands-on learning, and extensive testing before a comprehensive certification test.

She expanded her practice to dogs and cats about two years ago. In her office, Springboro Chiropractic, 335 N. Main St., she smiles as she says "I can adjust anything with a spine." Becky also has treated horses, but her most exotic patient so far is a snow leopard from the Cincinnati Zoo. "In fact, most zoos today have chiropractors on staff."

Her four-legged patients have their own treatment room and office entrance. Local vets refer animals they feel might benefit from chiropractic treatment and some vets have

asked her to come to their practices on a regular basis. "I work closely with local vets. They are the primary care providers and I make sure to keep them informed."

Her website, [www.hartledc.net](http://www.hartledc.net), includes testimonials from local pet owners. As a dog owner herself, she sees firsthand how adjustments have helped her pets. "My interest goes back years to when I was asked to treat a couple of dogs and I declined. When I read about the formal course available, I felt I was called to do this."

She recently participated in the annual Springboro business expo and handed out business cards with small dog biscuits attached. She also sent follow-up letters to those who visited her display. "This part of the practice is building slowly as the word gets out. Some of my patients come in, get treated, then go out to their car and bring in their pet. It's very rewarding."

Becky has been in practice almost 30 years, and shares the building with her husband, Bruce, who has a dental office. She can be reached at 937-748-0940.

