

"This former shipbuilding center just west of downtown Cleveland had a growth spurt in the latter half of the 1800s, when workers and managers for the area's docks, distilleries, and mills settled there," the magazine says.

Popular houses in Ohio City include "Victorian-era styles, from simple vernacular workers' cottages to Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Stick-style, and Italianate homes," the magazine says.

It adds, "You'll pay 30,000 or more for a house needing work; refurbished homes start at around 130,000."

If you missed it in this week's print edition, check out senior reporter Stan Bullard's story about the surge in sales of homes above \$200,000 in Ohio City.

A losing tax battle: A couple tax analysts take Ohio to task as being insufficiently bold in enacting pro-growth tax reforms.

On Forbes.com, Greg Lawson, a policy analyst with The Buckeye Institute for Public Policy Solutions, and Scott Drenkard, an economist with The Tax Foundation, contrast Ohio with North Carolina, where a recent overhaul of the tax code "is expected to move the Tar Heel State from 44th to 17th place in the Tax Foundation's State Business Tax Climate Index, catapulting it ahead of all its neighbors save Tennessee."

By contrast, they write, "Ohio made more modest tax reforms in its recently passed biennial budget. While Ohio's \$2.7 billion income tax cut is laudable, Ohio's top income tax rate is still higher than three of its immediate neighbors, and its sales tax rate, when combined with local sales taxes, is higher than any of its contiguous neighbors. Things only get worse when factoring in the most complicated, absurd, and punitive system of municipal taxation in the nation."

Ohio, unlike any other states, grants each of its 600-plus municipalities "broad autonomy to determine what is in its income tax base," according to Messrs. Lawson and Drenkard. "The local ordinances defining these hundreds of distinct income tax systems exceed a staggering 16,000 pages. This complexity creates an extraordinary compliance burden, as employers, especially contractors of varying stripes, must track their employees' location by hour, by jurisdiction to properly comply with the differing tax codes of all the localities in which they conduct business."

They're feeling flush: After decades of losing out to foreign rivals, "U.S. manufacturing of toilets is making a surprising, if modest, comeback — mostly under foreign ownership," *The Wall Street Journal* reports in a story that focuses largely on an Ashland County company, Mansfield Plumbing Products.

"Mansfield Plumbing, owned since 2004 by Organizacion Corona of Colombia, is spending \$9 million to expand the capacity of its Perrysville, Ohio, plant by nearly 50%," *The Journal* says. Another toilet maker, Toto Ltd. of Japan, is installing new casting machinery to raise capacity at its Morrow, Ga., plant by about 5%, the newspaper notes. And American Standard Brands, bought earlier this year by Lixil Corp. of Japan, is installing a new kiln and refurbishing other parts of its Nevada, Mo., plant, boosting capacity 5% to 10%.

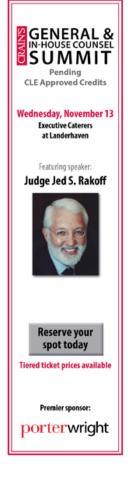
Jim Morando, president of Mansfield Plumbing Products, says that when he arrived at the company in early 2006, the Perrysville plant was "on the ropes," with production costs about 20% above Chinese imports.

From the story:

But Mr. Morando wanted to keep production in the U.S. That would allow the company to differentiate itself by stressing its ability to get products to customers faster, respond quickly to changes in consumer preferences, and offer a "Made in U.S.A" label, which Mr. Morando believes is increasingly appealing.

To cut costs, Mansfield automated administrative processes such as order-taking and reduced

 Waste not, want not -- but we waste more and should want a better electrical system



inventories, among other things. Workers, represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, accepted a wage freeze that lasted until 2012 and shouldered a larger share of health-care costs.

Mr. Morando says Mansfield employs about 480 people in Perrysville, up from 370 four years ago. He expects to raise that head count to about 550 within six months.

The doctor will see you later: A Cleveland Clinic official is guoted in this Bloomberg story that looks at the impact to the primary care system of 25 million Americans gaining coverage under Obamacare.

"The increase in newly insured patients arrives at a time when the nation has 15,230 fewer primary-care doctors than it needs, according to an Aug. 28 assessment by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services," the news service reports. "And emergency rooms report being strained with visits that have risen at twice the rate of population growth."

Perry Pugno, vice president for medical education at the American Academy of Family Physicians, tells Bloomberg, "It's like we're handing out bus tickets and the bus is already full. The shortfall of primary-care access is not an insignificant problem, and it's going to get worse."

David Longworth, chairman of the Medicine Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, was working in Massachusetts when that state in 2006 - at the urging of former Gov. Mitt Romney - passed near universal health coverage.

"Practices closed and patients would wait for eight to nine months to get in," Mr. Longworth says. "We overwhelmed the primary care health system."

The Clinic "predicts as many as 90,000 new patients in Northeast Ohio if everyone signs up for coverage," according to the story. "The health system is working to ramp up its primary care practices in anticipation."

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