



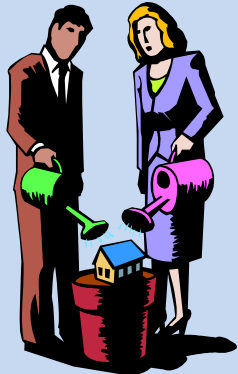
DEKALB COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation

DeKalb County EDC

News & Information

September 21, 2010

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 5



DCEDC Strategic Plan Update

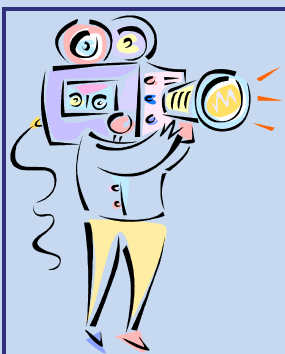
Our goal in 2010 is: **Enhance and Promote the DeKalb County Business Climate to Support Expansion and Promote New Business Formation.** We've tackled this effort on many fronts:

Resources for small business formation and expansion are posted on the DCEDC website and we are working with the County to create a small business portal on its website. We are also co-sponsoring a Small Business Development Expo with the County Economic Development Committee in November. Additionally we have continued our visitation program to stay in touch with business needs and identify resources to support retention and growth.

We've worked with Bob Gleeson of the NIU Center for Governmental Studies and the County Economic Development Committee to convene focus groups on high wage targeted industries to support growth in the manufacturing, professional services and arts and entertainment services business sectors.

Several new university/business partnerships have been established with NIU including the development of marketing materials that promote the unique technology resources available in DeKalb County.

These are just a few of the ways we are working to support our goal and business in DeKalb County.



Lights, Camera, Action

CGI Communications, a National Association of Counties member will be filming a series of sixty second videos about DeKalb County this fall. The videos are being taped at no cost to the County and DCEDC is facilitating the effort on their behalf. The project will be completed by year end. Videos will be showcased on the County website, DCEDC website and are available to the DeKalb County Convention & Tourism Bureau and the Chambers.



NIU Career Fairs Scheduled

Do you need an intern or a new employee? There are a number of opportunities for area employers to participate in career fairs on the NIU campus this fall. Mark your calendars for:

NIU Internship Career Fair – 10:00-3:00pm on October 6, 2010
At this fair employers are invited to promote their internship, co-op and part-time opportunities to NIU undergraduate and graduate students.

NIU Job Fair – 10:00-3:00pm on October 20, 2010
This is a fair for employers looking to fill their full-time employment positions with NIU seniors, graduate students, alumni and community members.

NIU Health Professions Fair – 9:30-12:30pm on November 1, 2010
Area employers are invited to this fair to fill full-time positions with candidates in health profession majors.

For more information call (815) 753-8346 email jobfair@niu.edu.
Registration is available online at www.niu.edu/careerservices.



DCEDC Executive Committee Field Trip to Tegrant Corp

Ever wonder exactly how Tegrant Corporation manufactures its products? The DCEDC Executive Committee found out when they were treated to a special meeting at company headquarters in DeKalb, IL on September 7, 2010. Hosts Phil Amberg, *Vice President Human Resources*, and Ron Leach, *Chief Executive Officer and President*, shared their company's history, an overview of current operations, plans for future growth, and then wrapped up the meeting with a tour of the plant.

Phil Amberg led the tour through the newly renovated plant at 1401 Pleasant St., giving committee members a firsthand look at the intricate processes for developing the many types of products Tegrant can offer. Also, the group got to see the only plant in the County with a functional train inside, a major advantage which helps move goods in and waste out in a timely fashion.

Tegrant Corporation markets and produces highly engineered packaging solutions and has three strategic business units: Alloyd Brands, which makes retail packaging material and machines; ThermoSafe Brands, creates temperature sensitive medical packaging for the pharmaceutical, biotech and food industries; and Protexic Brands, manufactures protective packaging products including molded and fabricated foams. According to Ron Leach, Tegrant will continue to create solutions to meet the unique demands of their customers.



DCEDC Events

DCEDC Business Roundtable: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The creation of new products and services is critical to sustaining and growing business. Entrepreneurs must continue to reinvent themselves to survive and prosper. The DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation Business Roundtable Luncheon on 9/16/2010 focused on innovation and entrepreneurship featuring two DeKalb County companies that engage in cutting-edge product development and an educator known for his forward-thinking views.

Presenters for the event were Dean Panettieri, Auto Meter Products, Inc.; John Murphy, Tegrant Corporation/Alloyd Brands; and Dr. Promod Vohra, NIU College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Copies of their presentations are available in the Members Only section of the DCEDC website.

Industrial Focus Luncheon & Program: The Metals Industry

On Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 11:30 am at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau DCEDC will present its annual Industrial Focus Luncheon & Program.

The presenters this year will be Brandt Moffatt and Don Jones, DeKalb Forge; and Rich Enners, Engineered Storage Products Company. They will discuss how metals are designed, fabricated and treated to fulfill the requirements of a dynamic workplace.

Cost will be \$20.00 for the luncheon and program. To become a sponsor for this event please [Click Here](#) and to register please [Click Here](#).



Small Business and Entrepreneur Assistance

Small businesses and entrepreneurs in DeKalb County need not fear lack of support, for the area boasts many organizations and associations to aid in a wide variety of specializations.

The **Illinois Small Business Development Centers** at Elgin Community College and Waubensee Community College offer business consulting, planning, financing assistance and more.

The **Center for Business Development and Continuing Education** at Kishwaukee College can provide strategic planning and project management consulting. Customized training is also available to fit individual business needs.

Free counseling is offered by the **Service Corps of Retired Executives** (SCORE) who are experienced business executives volunteering their time to help small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Yet another resource is the **Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center** (IMEC), which is comprised of a team of specialists who work with Illinois Businesses to help them increase productivity.

For more information on these resources [Click Here](#).





DeKalb County Activity

3M broke ground for their new 650,000 sq. ft. building on Macom Drive in Park 88 on August 9.

Smart Motion Robotics in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park has made tremendous progress since their June 1 groundbreaking. The building shell is up and visible progress is made daily. Building completion is slated for January, 2011.

The **Hy-Vee** grocery store slated for the Pappas' Sycamore Shopping Center is under construction as is the **Hobby Lobby** store in DeKalb's Northland Plaza. **Noodles & Company** is finishing up their site work.

IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC. announced the acquisition of **SK Hand Tool Corporation**. **IDEAL** will construct a 130,000 sq. ft. building in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park to accommodate SK as they manufacture sockets, ratchets, hammers and wrenches.

SK Express, Inc. has leased an additional 11,000 sq. ft. of space in the Sycamore Industrial Park.

Stewart Family Chiropractic has established a start-up clinic in DeKalb County. The clinic was supported by a \$44,223 loan from the DeKalb County Community Services Department.

Mark your calendars for a **Business Development Expo** the evening of November 29. This forum will be a great opportunity for those interested in new business formation and small business expansion.

For information on available sites, buildings and commercial space check out the Sites & Buildings section of the DCEDC website at www.dcedc.org.



Employee Training Support Available

Companies with immediate employee training needs may be eligible for matching funds through the Illinois Manufacturers Extension Center (IMEC). IMEC has Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP) funds available from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to reimburse companies for up to 50 percent of the cost of qualified training for their employees. The training programs must take place prior to December 31, 2010.

The ETIP program helps keep Illinois worker skills on pace with new technologies and business practices, which, in turn, helps increase productivity, reduce costs, improve quality and boost competitiveness. Interested firms should contact Rob McCann at (815) 753-7509 (office) or (815) 919-1300 (mobile) as soon as possible to schedule a consultation with IMEC to apply for the program.



DCEDC Staff Updates

After a **VERY LONG** work career **Linda Heinisch** has decided to retire. She'll be leaving DCEDC in late October. While her husband thinks he's getting a hired hand on the farm, Linda plans to spend time with family (especially her 15 grandchildren), her flower beds, books, cooking, sleeping and traveling.



On a lighter note, **Meghan Fish** is no longer Miss Fish but now Mrs. Meghan Grabill. On August 14, 2010, she wed John Grabill of Grant, Michigan in a sunflower field. The two have moved into a small house in DeKalb with their border collie, Anna. Meghan continues to work on her Master of Science in Geography at NIU while working at DCEDC and John is employed at WALT LTD as a welder.



Annual Sponsors

Castle Bank, IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC. and KishHealth System have committed to sponsor all DCEDC events in 2010.

We appreciate their expanded support!



DCEDC
421 N. California St.
Suite 200
Sycamore, IL 60178
Ph: 815/895-2711
F: 815/895-8713
borek@dcedc.org
www.dcedc.org

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).
To be added to our mailing list, please [click here](#).