EMCO Chemical to bring its headquarters north to Kenosha County

EMCO Chemical Distributors Inc. recently announced its plan to relocate its corporate headquarters from North Chicago, Ill. to a 260,000-square-foot facility in Pleasant Prairie’s LakeView Corporate Park.

EMCO purchased the former Lawter International/Hexion Specialty Chemicals building at 8601 95th Street in 2010 and has been making improvements to the building that would allow them to blend and distribute specialty chemicals from the location.

In March, EMCO informed the Village of Pleasant Prairie Plan Commission that it will also move its corporate headquarters from North Chicago, Illinois to Pleasant Prairie. The move will bring approximately 125 employees to Kenosha County. The move will take place after construction is complete, which is expected to be this July.

The building has about 25,000 square feet of office space. The rest of the square footage will be used for manufacturing and distribution operations. Approximately 200 jobs will remain in North Chicago as part of their packaging operations.

According to President Edward Polen, the company needs more space as well as increased rail access.

“We’re looking forward to coming to Wisconsin,” – EMCO President Edward Polen

The Pleasant Prairie site has a 25 car rail siding.

The company also recently purchased a building at 4909 70th Avenue in the Business Park of Kenosha. The company plans to move its waste services division to the 65,000-square-foot facility.

Edward Polen founded EMCO Chemical Distributors in 1971. The company manufactures, distributes, and packages industrial chemicals, specialty chemicals, and fine ingredients; and provides custom packaging and waste services. Some of the EMCO’s larger clients include Rust-Oleum, EXXON, Sherwin-Williams, and Valspar.
THANK YOU!

Typically this column within KABA’s quarterly newsletter is authored by KABA’s President or Chairman and is intended to provide an update on recent activities or to highlight new initiatives. In other words, we generally use this section of the newsletter to draw the reader’s attention to something that’s new and exciting at KABA or in the community.

This quarterly edition, I will break from that tradition a bit and instead take the opportunity to say THANK YOU to our investors, partners, and volunteers. Economic Development is clearly a team sport. On the heels of our 2013 Annual Meeting I want to recognize and thank our Kenosha Area teammates.

My THANK YOU list includes:

1. Private Sector Investors. Over 300 Kenosha Area businesses cut, check each year to support KABA and its economic development mission. These private sector investments comprise about 20% of KABA’s annual operating budget.

2. Public Sector Partners. Local units of government (County City Towns & Villages) are key partners in the economic development process. Kenosha County continues to support KABA with an annual economic development contract and additional funding to support economic development projects. KABA also works with local units of government to administer financing programs in support of economic development.

3. Volunteers. KABA’s governance model relies almost entirely on volunteer board and committee members. Community minded citizens and business leaders volunteer their time, energy and resources to ensure that KABA stays true to its mission and has a positive impact on the community’s economic development.

4. A special and notable thank you to four individuals that recently completed their terms serving on KABA’s Board of Directors: Guy Bradshaw, Gregg Thompson, Peter Valeri, and Dennis Vignieri.

5. Education and Workforce Development Partners. These entities are focused on deepening our talent pool and working to make sure students are prepared to pursue their futures and that employers can find individuals with required skill sets.

6. Mentors. KABA has approximately 125 individuals currently active in its Elementary School Mentoring program.

7. KABA’s incredible professional staff. Lisa Feltson, Brooke Infusino, Tim Muehlebach; Rebecca Noble and Richard Rodenbeck. We have assembled a highly capable team that continually raises the bar with regard to our organization’s performance.

This list could go on, but I hope I have made my point. Sustainable economic development success requires various people and entities coming together in the best interest of the community. I am extremely appreciative of all of the partners we regularly work with to make our community the incredible place that it is, and the even better place that we want it to become.

Todd Battle,
President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance

KABA 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

KABA would like to thank the over 275 members, partners, and supporters that attended its Annual Meeting, held on March 21 at the Club at Strawberry Creek. A room packed to capacity listened to reports by KABA Chair Jean Moran and President Todd Battle.

They each spoke about KABA’s accomplishments in 2012 and its top priorities in 2013, including continued focus on downtown revitalization, the redevelopment of the Chrysler Engine Plant site, the growth of KABA’s business retention and expansion program, and the creation of a community scorecard to measure KABA’s efforts.

“American Business: Innovation, Dignity and the Power of Place”

Snap-on’s Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Nick Pinchuk, delivered a positive and inspiring keynote address which centered around promoting the great things happening in our country and community as we seek to build the economy. He encouraged people to not just “walk the walk” but “talk the walk.”

Mr. Pinchuk also spoke about the strengths of Kenosha County, specifically its “great workforce” and strong educational institutions.

Welcome new KABA members!

Batzner Pest Management, Inc.
Specialized commercial and residential pest management services.

Heartland Payment Systems
Offers business solutions including payment processing, mobile payments, and data security.

HR Value Partners
Helps businesses identify HR solutions that will improve performance.

NAI MLG Commercial
Commercial real estate firm with offices in Milwaukee, Madison and Appleton.

OVER THE TOP CUISINE
Full-service caterer specializing in business aviation cuisine.

UNITED TECHNOLOGY AEROSPACE SYSTEMS-ELECTRIC SYSTEMS
Provides electric power systems for commercial, regional, business, and military aircraft.

The 2012 KABA Annual Report is now available. Every KABA member will receive a printed report in the mail soon. It is also available on our website: http://www.kaba.org/kaba/resource_room/annual_reports.asp.
On March 1, at an event hosted by Snap-On Incorporated in Kenosha, Congressman Paul Ryan was awarded the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Award for Manufacturing Legislative Excellence. Ryan received the award because of his strong support for our nation’s manufacturers during the 112th Congress.

“It’s an honor to receive this award from the National Association of Manufacturers and their members at Snap-On,” Ryan said. “Manufacturing is the backbone of Wisconsin’s economy and I will continue to push for pro-growth solutions that encourage job creation.”

L&M Corrugated Container Corp. plans to relocate its manufacturing operations, equipment and 43 full-time and two part-time employees from its Zion, Ill., plant to a 99,800-square-foot building in Pleasant Prairie.

In an operational plan submitted to the village, the company said: “Transferring the Zion plant to Pleasant Prairie will permit an efficient arrangement of proposed equipment. L&M will then be positioned to increase sales and profits beyond current limitations.”

L&M Corrugated is proposing to buy a 99,800-square-foot building at 10600 88th Ave., in the LakeView Corporate Park in Pleasant Prairie.

L&M Corrugated Container was established in 1979 in Zion, Ill. L&M has grown significantly opening a new facility in the summer of 2006 in Platteville, WI. The two locations have daily routes in Chicago, Milwaukee, Dubuque, and Madison with stops all across Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin.

L & M offers packaging services which range from custom packaging to standard stock boxes to foam protection to shipping tape.

Ta Chen International to build expanded Midwest Distribution Center in Pleasant Prairie

As soon as the ground is ready, construction is set to begin on a 471,403 square foot industrial building on approximately 26 acres north of 109th Street between 80th and 88th Avenues in LakeView Corporate Park. Preliminary plans also call for 10,489 square feet of office space within the building. CenterPoint WiPalk Land Company LLC disclosed plans for the building to the Village of Pleasant Prairie in January. Its tenant is Taiwan-based Ta Chen International Inc., which plans to employ approximately 61 full-time workers.

Ta Chen is a leading distributor of stainless steel and aluminum products as well as nickel sheets, plates and tubes. The company currently has eight warehouses serving the United States market. The company’s new Pleasant Prairie location will serve the Chicago and Milwaukee markets. In 2001, Ta Chen launched an Internet web order platform which today accounts for over 75% of its daily transactions.

Zilber Property Group to build another industrial building in Pleasant Prairie

Zilber Property Group is working on plans to build an additional 100,000- to 175,000-square-foot speculative industrial building in Pleasant Prairie. The building, which will be located at the southwest corner of 95th Street and Green Bay Road, will be built just to the south of a 60,000-square-foot speculative industrial building that is close to closing a new tenant, according to Zilber.

Businesses interested in the area want space that is available soon, said Chad Navis, Zilber’s industrial development director. “We’re finding you have to have the space available to do these deals,” he said.

KABA portfolio update

On January 9, 2013 KABA’s Finance Committee approved a $700,000 financing package for Kenosha Downtown LLC. KABA’s funds will be used to purchase and renovate the former Walgreens building in the heart of downtown Kenosha. The project will convert approximately 8,200 square feet of single tenant, street level commercial space into three separate retail units. The project is currently underway and is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2013.

Rich Rodenbeck was named KABA’s Chief Financial Officer in March, having previously served as its Director of Business Finance. Congratulations Rich!

SC Johnson leases in LakeView Corporate Park

S.C. Johnson & Son Inc. received approval in March to occupy a 256,240-square-foot building at 8505 100th St. in Pleasant Prairie’s LakeView Corporate Park. The Racine-based consumer products company plans to store Ziploc products and liquids like Windex and Shout, according to village officials. They company plans to employ 15 full-time employees over two shifts at the site.

SUPERVALU Midwest Region Headquarters to remain in Kenosha County

SUPERVALU recently announced that it has selected a new location for its Midwest Regional Office.

It will be located at 8401 102nd Street in Pleasant Prairie, approximately one mile from its current office location. Formerly occupied by Hospira, the location offers 43,000 square feet of office space and will accommodate approximately 200 employees.

In late 2012, SUPERVALU sold its Midwest Distribution Center facility to Meijer Distribution, Inc. Since that time, KABA has been working with SUPERVALU to retain and relocate their regional office positions in the area. The company anticipates that office staff will move to the new site in July once updates to the building have been completed.

“We are very pleased to announce to our associates and the community that our regional office will remain in Pleasant Prairie. Our associates are important to our continued success, and we look forward to moving into our new office space later this summer.”

- William Chew, Regional President for SUPERVALU

Featured Property

For more information on this property or other available business sites, please visit www.kenoshasites.com.

5612 95th Avenue, Business Park of Kenosha

- 166,300 square feet on 1.423 Acres
- Ceiling Height: 32’ clear
- Loading: 11 interior doors, 2 drive-in doors

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Aurora Health Care announces 61,000 SF, $31 million expansion on Kenosha’s west side

Milwaukee-based Aurora Healthcare plans to invest about $31 million in a new cancer center housed at two conjointed buildings totaling 61,000 square feet on Kenosha’s west side. Pain management and ophthalmology services will also be part of the complex, which will be located east of 118th Avenue at 68th Street, just north of Steinhafels Furniture.

The new cancer center will serve nearly 750 chemotherapy and radiation patients annually, which is about 30 percent more than Aurora now serves in the Kenosha Area. It will house two linear accelerators, medical oncology exam rooms, radiation oncology exam rooms, chemotherapy infusion bays, physician offices and nursing stations.

Aurora plans to begin construction in late spring or early summer. They expect to gain occupancy by May 2014.

Kevin Kluesner, chief clinical and support services officer for Aurora, said the new complex is being built in lieu of a previous plan to expand on the existing Aurora Kenosha Medical Center at 10400 75th Street - a few miles east of the proposed facility. There is not enough space for the needed expansion at the current location.

Save the Date! The Second Annual Kenosha/Racine Area Fastpitch Competition will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at UW-Parkside.

Competitors will have three minutes, max, to hit it out of the park before a panel of judges from the business and investment community. Passionate entrepreneurs in all phases of business – including startup, pre-startup, or idea stage – will compete for $5,000 top prize money.

Carthage unveils plans for new science center

Carthage recently unveiled plans for a new science center on its lakefront campus. The new science center will increase classroom and laboratory space by 40 percent, provide state-of-the-art facilities for study in the natural sciences and provide new ways for students and faculty to collaborate. The project includes a major renovation of the 70,000-square-foot David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Natural and Social Sciences; and a new 35,000-square-foot wing to the south and east, embracing the center’s lakeside location.

“Carthage is proud to participate in this significant project that will further enhance the quality of education and research at Carthage,” said Carthage President Gregory S. Call. “The new science center will also be a vital component of Carthage’s strategy to maintain an affordable liberal arts education for students in a competitive economic environment.”

Construction is ongoing, and the new science center is expected to open in fall 2014.

Gateway opens the SC Johnson Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology (iMET) Center; receives visit from Gov. Walker

The SC Johnson integrated Manufacturing and Engineering Technology (iMET) Center at Gateway Technical College’s Sturtevant campus officially opened in February. The region’s first flexible manufacturing training center — Tarnowski Hall — includes training in computer numerical control (CNC) machining, welding, metal fabrication, automated manufacturing systems, and industrial robotics.

Tarnowski Hall, which is a nearly 18,000-square-foot addition that brings the facility to 61,000 square feet, features the College’s first Fab Lab, focused on industrial design and rapid prototyping. It also houses Gateway’s engineering technology educational programs and CNC, welding, and fabrication boot camp.

SC Johnson is a major contributor to the project. “Through their programming and hands-on learning approach, Gateway brings much needed, well-prepared graduates to the local workforce,” said Fisk Johnson, Chairman & CEO of SC Johnson.

Xten Industries also partnered with Gateway on the facility. The iMET’s Quality Control (QC) Lab (picted left) was sponsored by the Kenosha-based plastic injection molder.

On a visit to the iMET Center in April, Gov. Scott Walker praised Gateway’s efforts. The appearance was a part of his Forward Manufacturing Tour a statewide speaking circuit designed to connect with manufacturers and reinforce the value of the evolving industry to Wisconsin’s economy.
KABA MEMBER NEWS & NOTES

IRIS USA Introduces Ohyama Lights, LLC

IRIS USA recently announced its newest division, Ohyama Lights LLC. Owned by Japanese company IRIS Ohyama, Inc., IRIS USA is a manufacturer of plastic storage containers and pet products. Its U.S. headquarters is in Pleasant Prairie’s Lakeview Corporate Park.

Ohyama Lights develops LED light technology for commercial and residential use. Its brand will include LED bulbs and light fixtures for various applications.

IRIS Ohyama parent company of IRIS USA is one of the largest LED lighting manufacturers in Japan and it is focused on bringing its technology to businesses and homes in the United States.

Dave Geertsen recognized as ‘Outstanding CPA in Government’

David M. Geertsen, CPA, has been awarded a 2013 Excellence Award from the Wisconsin Institute of Certified Public Accountants (WICPA).

The Outstanding CPA in Government Award recognizes the achievements of a CPA who makes a sustained and significant contribution to the increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations. Dave will be honored at a recognition dinner at the Potawatomi Bingo Casino in Milwaukee on May 9th.

AbbVie’s Marvin Bembry awarded Leadership recognition at the Midwest Urban Empowerment Awards

Marvin Bembry Regional Director State Government Affairs for AbbVie and a member of the KABA Board of Directors, has been selected by CCN (Community Connections Network) magazine for a 2013 Midwest Urban Empowerment Award winners have been instrumental in helping to enrich the lives of people throughout the Midwest region and beyond. Awardees have exemplified urban community empowerment and have changed the lives of countless individuals.

WHAT’S UP IN DOWNTOWN KENOSHA

Downtown storefront turns art gallery for a day

For five hours on a Saturday evening in April, an empty downtown store front was alive with art lovers and art appreciators alike.

The Kenosha Art Association (KAA), led by its Executive Director and local arts advocate Francisco Loyola, transformed the first floor of 5335 Sixth Avenue into a Pop-Up Gallery. The Pop-Up Gallery showcased art work by local HarborSide Academy students and regional artists. An adjoining door to Char’s Cafe remained open throughout the event so patrons could stop by for some refreshments.

Similar one-day exhibitions have been done in Racine and Waukegan, but this was a first for downtown Kenosha. But it won’t be the last, according to Loyola. The KAA is already planning another exhibition in May but intends to keep the location secret until just before its opening.

Pictured top: The Tremper Jazz Messengers played for the steady stream of people who came to the Pop-Up Gallery.

Pictured bottom: Glass and metal flowers created by Kenosha artist Jason Reeder.

Pictures courtesy of KAA Board Member Dorothy Thompson.

Weather’s warming up...plan to check out these downtown events this summer!

Summer in Kenosha means festival season! It will be here before you know it, so plan now to attend one of the festive events happening in downtown Kenosha and its beautiful lakefront.

Some highlights include:
- Saturday, May 4th: Wisconsin Marathon
- Sunday, June 2nd: Good Folks & Spokes
- Saturday, July 20th: Taste of Wisconsin
- Saturday, July 20th: Love the Shoes Summer Sports Festival
- Saturday, August 3rd: Lakefront Rendezvous
- Friday & Saturday, August 24th-25th: Grill Games
- Saturday, August 31st: Kenosha Classic Cruise-In

Kenosha HarborMarket to go back outdoors

The Kenosha HarborMarket is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2013. It is being held outdoors at the Rhode Theater through May 11th. On May 18th, its outdoor season begins on Kenosha’s lakefront on 2nd Avenue just west of the Kenosha Public and Civil War Museums.

HarborMarket features small agriculturalists, food producers, artists, craftsmen and entrepreneurs from the Kenosha Area. Learn more at kenoshaharbormarketplace.com.

DOWNTOWN KENOSHA

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Take 10 With Y-Link Member Tanya Ruder

Age: 31
Occupation: Executive Director of Community Partnerships & Media Relations, Kenosha Unified School District
Alma mater: UW-Oshkosh

How long have you been involved in Y-Link? I joined the Community Engagement committee in January.

What’s been your best career decision? My best career decision was choosing to work in non-profit community relations. The work is always exciting and has a positive impact on the community--it’s a win-win.

Hottest trend in your profession? In the education communications world, it is developing mobile apps and mobile websites that work well for stakeholders. This includes parents, students, staff and community members.

Personal mantra? I will be led by my dreams.

Best thing about Kenosha? I love that Kenosha is a big city with a small-town feel. You can get anywhere in 15-20 minutes and everyone seems connected in some way or another.

Last app you downloaded? Amazon Price Check.

Best advice for other YPs? Learn from your experienced colleagues, but also be willing to reach out and teach them what you know. Education is a two-way street.

Food for Thought Workshop

These lunch-and-learn series are a chance for young professionals to get hands on with professional development material presented by subject-matter experts. Not only are the workshops great for learning new leadership and other career essential skills -- they also allow YPs to share leadership strategies and best practices with each other.

The inaugural workshop features the following: 10 Strategies for Effective Leaders featuring Kim Abbott, w living as a Leader April 25 – 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. KABA | 5500 6th Ave. Suite 200 Members: $20 Non-members: $30

Encourage the young leaders in your organization to register for these events -- or sign up yourself! Specific details can be found at ylinkenosha.com.

Congrats to Amanda Demicchi for winning Y-Link’s tagline contest with her entry: “Leading the way.” She received a $150 Apple gift card, sponsored by Dooley & Associates.

Inspiration from community trailblazers

Y-Link’s Leadership Forum series has been one of its most successful programs.

In January, Carthage College President Greg Woodward delivered a talk to almost 90 young professionals. He spoke about Carthage’s theme for this school year: “I am because we are.” The event was held at Carthage’s Todd Wehr Center.

Lile’s Harley Davidson was the backdrop for Melanie Holmes, Vice President of World of Work Solutions at Manpower Group. She spoke to over 70 attendees in March about adapting to the changing world of work.

To be added to the Y-Link mailing list and receive newsletters, information and event invitations, please email Brooke Infusino at binfusino@kaba.org.

Upcoming events...

- Thursday, May 9
  Speed Networking
  5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
  @ Pazzo
  (Members: $10 Non-members: $15)

- Wednesday, May 15
  Leadership Forum
  < details bottom left>

- Tuesday, May 28
  Book Club Never Eat Alone, by Keith Ferrazzi
  6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  @ Slice

- Saturday, August 3
  Laps for Literacy
  9:30 a.m.
  @ Navy Memorial Park
  5K run/walk co-hosted by Y-Link & The Kenosha Literary Council

Welcome Y-Link corporate ambassadors!

These organizations value the success of their employees and our community.

- C.H. Robinson Worldwide
-Clinton Larson Allen
- Johnson Technical College
- Johnson Bank
- LMI Packaging Solutions, Inc.
- Platinum Systems
- Riley Construction Company
- Xitan Industries

For more information about becoming a corporate ambassador visit http://ylinkenosha.com/corporate-ambassadors/.

May Leadership Forum

featuring Tom Kelley, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer at United Hospital System

Wednesday, May 15 | 7:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Circa on Seventh
Members: $10 Non-members: $15 | Breakfast included
Register at ylinkenosha.com.

47%

percentage of the workforce comprised of Gen X and Gen Y by 2014.

– Melanie Holmes
Board of Directors

Chair
Virginia Moran
Chief Executive Officer,
LMI Packaging Solutions, Inc.

Vice Chair
Frank Unick
Chief Financial Officer,
Uline, Inc.

Secretary
Susan Ventura
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Chief Operating Officer,
United Hospital System

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Bryan Albrecht
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Marvin Bembray
Director – State & Local Government Affairs, Abbott

William Chew
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SuperValu, Inc.

Susan Crane
Manager,
We Energies, Inc.

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Kenosha Unified School District

Mitchell Januszewski
President & CEO,
Regulatory Compliance Associates, Inc.

Jerry King
Chief Financial Officer,
Kenosha Beef International, Ltd.

Karla Krehbiel
Senior Vice President,
Johnson Bank

Ronald Kwasny
Treasurer,
Jockey International, Inc.

Aldo Pagliari
Senior Vice President –
Finance & Chief Financial Officer,
Snap-on Incorporated

Brenda Penesis
Plant Manager,
GBC / ACCO Brands

Carl Schultz
Owner,
Five Star Fabricating, Inc.

Peter Sinsky
Chief Financial Officer,
Riley Construction Co., Inc.

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Chief Financial Officer,
Riley Construction Co., Inc.

Stanley Torstenson
Retired CEO,
Stan’s Lumber, Inc.

Timothy Woods
Director – Manufacturing & Operations,
North America,
SC Johnson & Son, Inc.

Staff

Todd Battle,
President

Lisa Feltson,
Administrative Assistant

Brooke Infusino,
Director of Talent Development

Terri Muehlbauer,
Office Manager

Becky Noble,
Director of Marketing

Rich Rodenbeck,
Chief Financial Officer

UNEXPECTED kenosha
Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA)
5500 Sixth Avenue, Suite 200, Kenosha, WI 53140
262.605.1100 | info@kaba.org | www.kaba.org