Toolamation relocates to Kenosha, breathes new life into existing building

Governor Scott Walker joined company executives and local officials in February to announce Toolamation Services Inc. is relocating its headquarters and manufacturing operations from northern Illinois to the City of Kenosha.

“I’m pleased to welcome Toolamation to Wisconsin and have them join the growing list of companies that are establishing operations in Wisconsin because of our strong business climate and outstanding workforce,” Governor Walker said. “Our job growth is due in large part to the success of small and medium-sized manufacturers like Toolamation.”

Toolamation, which specializes in high-volume automated production broaching, screw machine tooling products, and CNC machining services, will relocate two operations in Zion, IL, to the former IEA manufacturing site in Kenosha. The renovated 46,000-square-foot facility will enable the company to operate more efficiently and to have space for future expansion. Construction on the $1.4 million project is under way and the new facility is expected to open this spring. The company, which now has about 50 employees, plans to create 16 new jobs over the next three years.

To help secure the new jobs, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has authorized Toolamation to receive up to $300,000 in tax credits over the next three years. The actual amount of tax credits received is contingent upon the number of jobs created. The Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) is also providing the company with a $490,000 loan for the purchase of the building and equipment.

Founded in 1968, Toolamation specializes in broaching and screw machine tool manufacturing, as well as CNC machining fabrication and engineering solutions to a diverse customer base that includes companies in the power tool, automotive, commercial truck, semiconductor and building industries. The company processes more than 1 million parts per month and has one of the fastest turnaround times in the industry.

“We are looking forward to working with the State of Wisconsin and the City of Kenosha to grow our business and to bring new opportunities to the area.”

– Tony Dieso, President, Toolamation

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Unexpected Kenosha is published quarterly by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, Inc. (KABA). Archives can be found on our web site: www.kaba.org/kaba/news

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Twitter: @kabaconnecthere
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sound Investment

Increasingly, we recognize and work to enhance the undeniable connection between education and economic prosperity.

Economic Development focuses on building wealth and prosperity through business growth and job creation. Today, more than ever, this formula requires a highly skilled workforce that is biased towards intellectual rather than physical capacity. Automation in factories is a prime example where general laborers and traditional assembly workers of yesterday are now machine operators, computer programmers, and machine repair technicians. Jobs that once required a strong back and work ethic, now demand critical thinking skills and some post-secondary training.

Communities, regions and states that want to build and maintain high performing economies, must invest in their educational systems. The Kenosha Area is no different . . . . EXCEPT that we start this competition for investment and economic prosperity a few lengths behind the pack.

In Kenosha County, 23.2% of the population (over age 25) holds a bachelor’s degree. The national average is 28.8%. Said another way, Kenosha County’s 5.6% deficit in this measure translates into approximately 5,000 fewer residents with 4-year college degrees. Kenosha County continues to make progress in this area. These advances are aided by the tireless efforts of our K-12 educators to prepare students for future educational pursuits and by accessible and affordable higher education options within the County.

As we look to build upon our recent economic development success and grow Kenosha County’s economy, human capital is quickly becoming our most pressing priority. The area’s advanced economy and its need for skilled workers, now and into the future offers 2 related realities: (1) We cannot afford to have underutilized human resources; and, (2) Uneducated and undereducated persons will be left behind.

Investments that make education more affordable and accessible are wise. Significant cuts to K-12 public education and the UW-System are harmful when our economic prosperity increasingly relies on a highly skilled and educated population.

I do not envy the position of our State Legislators as they work to balance a challenging State budget. I would just request that funding for public education be at the bottom of the list of things to cut. The KABA/Chamber Scholarship Golf Classic benefits the education foundations of the KABA and the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce. Together, these foundations have awarded almost $200,000 to Kenosha County high school students pursuing higher education. Please consider golfing or sponsoring to support this important effort! Contact the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce at 262-654-1234 or info@kenoshachamber.com.

Sound Investment

Thank you for investing in KABA!

FNA GROUP
Manufactures pressure washers for home and industrial markets.

FULMER DENTISTRY
Offers General and Emergency Dental with offices in Kenosha and Paddock Lake.

COMPREHENSIVE ORTHOPAEDICS
Specializes include minimally invasive surgery, sports medicine, joint replacement and injections.

LIFTPRO, LLC
Delivers lift rental equipment, service on customer owned aerial lifts and transportation services for customer owned machines.

NEWMARK GRUBB KNIGHT FRANK
One of the largest commercial real estate firms in the world, local offices in Chicago.

PINNACLE ENGINEERING GROUP
Provides engineering services and solutions for a broad spectrum of private and public clients.

R.A. SMITH NATIONAL, INC.
Engineering, surveying and technical services consultant headquartered in Brookfield, WI.

Upcoming events

2015 Scholarship Golf Classic

Date: Monday, June 8, 2015 | Time: 11:30 a.m. shotgun start | Location: Kenosha Country Club | Cost: $200/person ($175/person if you register by May 15)

The KABA/Chamber Scholarship Golf Classic benefits the education foundations of the KABA and the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce. Together, these foundations have awarded almost $200,000 to Kenosha County high school students pursuing higher education. Please consider golfing or sponsoring to support this important effort! Contact the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce at 262-654-1234 or info@kenoshachamber.com.

KABA Member News & Notes

Milwaukee Business Journal honors Dental Associates with HR Award

Dental Associates won an inaugural HR Award from the Milwaukee Business Journal in the Medium private companies ($50 million to $250 million) category. The awards were established to recognize the important work individuals, companies and organizations do in the field of human resources to make southeastern Wisconsin firms and organizations successful.

Five Star Race Car Bodies featured in ‘Circle Track’ magazine

Five Star Race Car Bodies produced a brand-new ARCA/K&N Series composite body for NASCAR driver Will Kimmel’s #69 Ford Fusion and it was featured in the June issue of Circle Track magazine. The article calls the car ‘the embodiment of ARCA’s push toward a new generation of oval track racing’.

Riley Construction announces new minority shareholder & Vice President of Operations

Riley Construction announces the promotion of Ben Kossow to Vice President of Operations. As a minority shareholder since 2014, Ben has shown great ability in understanding and executing a diverse portfolio of project types.

SC Johnson receives Climate Leadership Award

The Snap-on Museum wins Milwaukee Business Journal Real Estate Award

The Snap-on Museum, located at its headquarters at 2801 80th St., Kenosha, won a 2015 Real Estate Award from the Business Journal of Milwaukee. In all, 17 projects were honored, first-place winners and the “Project of the Year” will be announced during an awards luncheon to honor the winners on April 17 at The Pfister Hotel.

New identity for UW-Parkside Center for Community Partnerships

The Center for Community Partnerships announced in January that they have changed their name to Continuing Education and Community Engagement. The new name better reflects what this organization does in the field. Along with this new identity, they are also expanding courses and youth programs.

SC Johnson has received the 2015 Climate Leadership Award for Excellence in Greenhouse Gas Management from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Association of Climate Change Officers, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, and The Climate Registry.

Save the date! LeaderCast Kenosha is Kenosha’s premier leadership skills-building event. Save the date for the 2015 event at ULINE Wednesday, August 5th. More details to be available soon!

The 2015 KABA Annual Report is now available! One printed copy will be mailed to each investor. If you would like additional copies, please contact KABA. It is also available online at http://www.kaba.org/kaba_resource_room.

continued on page 5 >
2014 KABA Annual Meeting

Thank you to the over 300 people who attended the 2015 KABA Annual Meeting on April 21! KABA is very grateful to its many investors and partners for their continued support, including the sponsors of the event, which took place at the UW Parkside Student Center Ballroom: Johnson Bank, Gateway Technical College, Riley Construction Company and Zilber Property Group.

The focus for this year’s meeting was ‘The Battle for Talent: How Kenosha County can Compete and Win!’ The keynote speakers - Andy Levine from DCI and Meredith Fahey from the Allegheny Conference on Economic Development - delivered presentations about what Kenosha County’s talent needs are currently and will be in the future. They discussed the tactics the County can consider to attract and retain top talent and what other communities - specifically Pittsburgh - are doing to address the issue. Additional coverage of the Key Note address is on page five.

Congratulations to Kevin Ervin, owner of Frank’s Diner, who was named the 2015 Stan Torstensen Volunteer of the Year. KABA also welcomed three new board members: Randy Eken, InLinkEra; Randy Hernandez, Kenall Manufacturing; and Scott MCELanen, Boys and Girls Club of Kenosha.

2014 at-a-glance

- 1,515 new jobs
- $305 MM in new private investment
- 3 MM SF developed/absorbed
- $4.9 MM in new project financing from KABA revolving loan funds
- $975,000 MM in high impact funding
- 69 company leads explored
- 100 companies interviewed for BRP program
- 331 total KABA investors
- 30 new KABA investors
- 48 new investors made a contribution to the Y-Link initiative, raising a total of $14,700
- 43 new investors made a contribution to Downtown Kenosha, raising a total of $8,275
- 1,109 YPs attended one of Y-Link’s 28 events
- 70 students took a Schools2Skills tour
- 1,540 people attended a KABA event
- 16,205 visitors to kaba.org

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1. Balance and having the best of all worlds.
2. Adaptation and reinvention.
3. Personal fulfillment and giving.
4. An express lane on the road to success.

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One of those areas is Pittsburgh and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development. Meredith Fahey, a Workplace Project Manager for the organization and Kenosha native, spoke after Andy and provided a case study. She outlined several initiatives the Pittsburgh Area is doing including ImaginePittsburgh.com and special programs to target veterans and the Hispanic populations.

A video of the presentation can be found on KABA’s YouTube channel: KABAConnectHere.

KABA Portfolio Update

In March 2015 KABA’s Finance Committee approved financing in the amount of $118,400 for Cast, LLC. KABA’s funds will be used to purchase a vacant building on 6th Avenue in the downtown area to accommodate an expansion of the restaurant. The expansion will include breakfast/ lunch service, coffee/tea/wine/beer service and some retail options. KABA will use the funds from its new City revolving loan fund that was established to promote economic development in the downtown area.

Thank you for investing in KABA!
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Stein’s Aircraft Service sees potential in Kenosha County; making a major investment at Kenosha Regional Airport

Stein’s Aircraft Service (SAS) is building a 44,000-square-foot aviation hangar on the northeast corner of the Kenosha Regional Airport. The new hangar - which will be the airport's largest - represents a $4.5 million investment and will support approximately 20 jobs.

Co-owners Mike and Laurie Stein have been operating out of the airport for the last six years and are excited to have a much larger, more permanent presence in Kenosha.

"Kenosha has been phenomenal to work with. We have nothing but kudos for Wayde Buck and his staff."
– Mike Stein, Co-owner, Stein Aircraft Services

Their current hangar at the Waukesha County Airport is the fourth hangar they’ve operated out of, having outgrown three others since 2001. The hangar is 22,500 square feet. Their new facility in Kenosha will be almost double the size with room to expand.

Kenosha Regional Airport Director Wayde Buck thinks SAS and its new hangar will be a great addition to the airport, saying, “It’s a fantastic development. The fact that they are providing jet maintenance is a niche we don’t have and should open up more opportunity for customers using the airport.”

"It says a lot about the community and the airport to be able to attract this type of development here."
– Wayde Buck, Director, Kenosha Regional Airport

SAS specializes in aircraft management, maintenance and consulting. Over the years, they have diversified their services based on customer’s needs. They are truly a one-stop-shop for anything a jet owner or charter needs. They pride themselves on the family atmosphere they’ve cultivated within the company and their drive for continuous improvement. The hardworking executive team diligently revisits their business plan every year to adjust to changing circumstances.

As for their foray into Kenosha County, their experience has been nothing but positive. Both Mike and Laurie plan to have offices here and look forward to creating a beautiful and functional facility and becoming great corporate citizens in the community.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

Education Spotlight: Frank Elementary School

Frank Elementary School has challenging circumstances to deal with everyday, including poverty, homelessness, truancy, language barriers, and discipline issues. Despite these, the school is making improvements. Much of this is due to Principal Heather Connolly and her staff’s willingness to use creative initiatives as well as the Expeditionary Learning model adopted in 2011. These programs, as well as a passion for impacting their students lives in a positive way, have led to some exciting change.

Some facts about Frank Elementary*:

- 96.5% free or reduced lunch
- 20.2% limited English proficient
- Student enrollment is 510 with 89.2% minority (46.3% African American, 42% Hispanic, 10.8% Caucasian); and 96.7% economically disadvantaged
- Very transient student population with large percentage identified as homeless and significant turnover in student population throughout the year and from year to year.

Just a few of the innovative ideas that Frank has embraced:

- Year round school: Students attend school much further into June and return much earlier in August with increased breaks throughout the school year
- Universal free breakfast and lunch daily with fresh fruits and vegetables provided by local farmers
- Looping: teachers stay with students through two grade levels to enhance trust and build relationships
- Language: schools provide instruction in two language (i.e. kindergartners learn concepts are reinforced through several subjects (i.e. kindergartners learn language barriers, and discipline issues. Despite these, the school is making improvements. Much of this is due to Principal Heather Connolly and her staff’s willingness to use creative initiatives as well as the Expeditionary Learning model adopted in 2011. These programs, as well as a passion for impacting their students lives in a positive way, have led to some exciting change.

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*From 2013-2014 Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction School Report Card

Expeditionary Learning

Expeditionary Learning (EL) is a teaching model that challenges students to think critically and take active roles in their classrooms and communities.

Frank adopted the EL model in 2011. Since then, several other Kenosha schools have adopted the model, making Kenosha the second-highest concentration of EL programs in the country.

Expeditionary Learning at Frank means... Enhanced Professional Development- continuously train the teachers and perform the research to guide that training. Differentiation- every child learns differently and therefore should be engaged differently. Workshop Model- increased student to student engagement and less teacher direction. Character Building- peer conflict and building character traits are integral to the curriculum. Hands-on Learning- Concepts are reinforced through several subjects (i.e. kindergartners learn

LakeView Technology Academy named Technical Education Program of the Year

LakeView Technology Academy was recently selected to receive the Wisconsin Technology Education Association (WTEA) High School Program of the Year award. This award recognizes a high school that delivers an outstanding program in the areas of technology and engineering. It is only awarded to one school annually.

Members of LakeView’s Integrated Technology Education Department were recognized at the WTEA awards banquet at the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee in March.
In a 2010 sewer and water rate comparison, Kenosha communities throughout the state. The average annual sewer and water charges were $787.43. Kenosha’s is $515.75.

Kenosha’s supply of water is taken entirely from Lake Michigan through 42-inch and 48-inch intake pipes that extend nearly one mile into the lake. All of the Great Lakes combined are estimated to contain six quadrillion gallons of water, making up 95 percent of the fresh water supply for the United States and 20 percent of the fresh water supply for the entire world. To protect this precious resource, the Great Lakes Compact was ratified in 2008. It is a legally binding interstate compact among the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that details how the states manage the use of the Great Lakes Basin’s water supply.

A perfect partnership

The Kenosha Water Utility has an ongoing partnership with Centrisys Corporation. The Kenosha-based company manufactures dewatering and thickening centrifuges for the municipal, oil and gas, animal, industrial manufacturing and mining industries. In 2010, Centrisys approached KWU with the proposal to install a new centrifuge it was developing. Having the centrifuge close would allow the engineers at Centrisys to make improvements to the machine while it was in operation. Essentially, the KWU has become a Centrisys R & D facility. The Centrisys dewatering centrifuge replaced three plate and frame presses at KWU that had been in operation since the 1980s. The system has proven to be far superior and its value is being realized in many aspects of their operation including reduced man-hours, chemicals, byproducts and energy. The cost savings to the utility has been $400,000 per year.

Due to the success of the dewatering centrifuge, KWU teamed up with Centrisys in 2011 to install a thickening centrifuge at its facility. This unit replaced an aging system that had been operating since the mid 1980’s. The new centrifuge saved the utility $80,000 to $100,000 in pumps and equipment upgrades to its prior system and eliminated the need for expensive polymers or chemicals to operate the unit. There is also a much smaller space requirement for the new equipment.

The City of Kenosha has untapped water use capacity. It currently pumps an average of 12 million gallons a day, getting up to 25 million gallons a day at peak times in the summer months. It’s capacity is 42 million gallons a day. Brew beer? Produce yogurt? Kenosha could handle more major water users!

The Water Council

Southeastern Wisconsin is considered one of the world’s most significant hubs for water research and industry thanks to the area’s established and extensive history spent engaged in the study, treatment, storage and movement of water within the full water cycle.

Created by leaders in both business and education, The Water Council– headquartered in downtown Milwaukee– is convening the region’s existing water companies and research clusters, developing education programs to train our talent, and building partnerships that cut across all sectors and geographic boundaries.
DOWNTOWN KENOSHA

Businesses setting up shop, expanding in Downtown Kenosha

With the warmer weather brings an influx of people and events downtown, as well as new investment. There are several exciting new businesses taking storefronts and several other local favorites expanding their stores.

Top Dog Gaming is a new video gaming center recently opened at 621 56th Street Kenosha. Spanning approximately 3,000 square feet in a formerly vacant storefront, this open concept “arcade format” where visitors can enjoy dozens of the hottest video game titles with their friends for less than a cost of a movie.

Furniture store and gift shop Lulu Birds is a unique new shop located at 711 57th St. The modest store is starting with limited hours of Fridays and Saturdays only, and features an eclectic mix of antique furniture and home décor.

Elsie Mae’s Canning is relocating to a storefront at 5819 Sixth avenue (next to Scoops Ice Cream) as their business has grown tremendously. The new space will nearly triple their size and will be expanding as well, growing into the former Elsie Mae’s space. They would like to create a better workflow and production area for their amazing snacks!

Kenosha recognized at the Wisconsin State Main Street Awards

On April 17th, 13 representatives of Downtown Kenosha traveled to DePere Wisconsin to participate in the Wisconsin State Main Street Awards. This annual event features the best projects completed by over 37 accredited Main Street communities throughout the State. Hosted at St. Norbert College, over 300 representatives from various communities enjoyed a reception and awards ceremony. Downtown Kenosha received three recognitions and a project award.

Downtown Kenosha received three recognitions and a project award. Executive Director, Christopher Naumann was recognized for his five years of tenure as a Wisconsin Main Street Manager; Deanna Goodwin was recognized as the Downtown Kenosha Inc. Board Member of the Year; and Zohrab Khaligian was recognized as the Downtown Kenosha Inc. Volunteer of the Year. Both Deanna and Zohrab have served Downtown well in their roles of co-chairing the DKI Promotions Committee and have contributed greatly to the success of the Downtown.

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United Hospital System Receives Bubbler Award

Several Y-Link members road tripped to Wausau in April to support United Hospital. The Kenosha-based hospital network was awarded a Bubbler Award by YPWeek sponsor Newaukee. The Bubbler Awards recognize the Best Places to Work for Young Professionals in Wisconsin.

YPWeek is a weeklong platform for discovery, adventure and meaningful conversations about the issues that matter among YPs in Wisconsin.

YP Week is a state-wide initiative aimed to engage young professionals in their communities, careers and personal development. What began last year as a Milwaukee-centric program, evolved this year to eight communities across the state collaborating on a slate of exciting programming that ran from April 11-18.

Y-Link events included a pizza-making lesson at Mangia’s with reknown chef Tony Mantuano, bootcamp workouts, volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club Beer & Cheese Fest, and a professional development panel discussion that let YPs hear 40 lessons in 40 minutes from eight local business and community leaders.

Visit www.kenoshacraftbeerweek.com for details!
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Randy Ekern
Vice President Global Operations & Supply Chain, InSinkErator

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Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

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Scott McLellan
Chief Professional Officer, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha

Brad Miller
Vice President, Market Development, SuperValu, Inc.

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

Chad Navis
Director of Industrial Development, Zilber Property Group

Tracy Nielsen
Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Kenosha County

Aleta Norris
Partner, Living as a Leader

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

Brenda Penesis
Plant Manager, GBC / ACCO Brands

Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis
Superintendent of Schools, Kenosha Unified School District

Charles Skendziel
Owner, Equity Creative

Clara-lin Tappa
Assistant Vice President and HR Manager, United Communications Corporation

Timothy Woods
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Christopher Naumann, Executive Director, Downtown Kenosha, Inc.
Becky Noble, Director of Marketing
Heather Wessling Grosz, Vice President of Economic Development

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