

Perfectly Centered

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Kenosha Area Business Alliance(KABA)

SUMMER 2016

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German candy maker HARIBO selects Kenosha County as the site of its first North American manufacturing facility

Operation will be one of the largest U.S. manufacturing sites in the confectionery industry and is one of the largest investments by a foreign company in Wisconsin history

Governor Scott Walker announced in March that HARIBO, the Bonn, German-based confectionery company has selected Kenosha County as the site of its first manufacturing facility in North America, expected to begin construction in 2018.

"This is a sweet day for Kenosha County," said Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser. "HARIBO's decision to invest in our community and make this the location for its first U.S. production facility will have a tremendous impact on our county and our state. We are incredibly excited about this investment and the long-term positive impact it will have on our entire area and residents."

The new facility will be built in the new Prairie Highlands Corporate Park in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. The village recently purchased approximately 458 acres at the northwest corner of Highway Q and I-94 to facilitate the new corporate park with a focus on manufacturing, office and commercial uses.

Founded in 1920 and based in Bonn, Germany, HARIBO is the world market leader in the fruit gum and licorice segment, with 100 million Gold-Bears alone produced daily worldwide. HARIBO, a family-owned company now operated by the third generation, has 16 production sites throughout Europe and employs nearly 7,000 people worldwide.



The new 500,000-square-foot development announced in March by HARIBO is expected to be an approximately \$242 investment and bring 400 jobs to Kenosha County.

"HARIBO has already been in the process of selecting a location for a first manufacturing facility in the U.S.A. for several years. In an elaborate process, we have examined many different sites. We are very excited to announce this important decision today."

*- Rick LaBerge,
Chief Operating Officer,
HARIBO North America Inc.*

Archives of *Perfectly Centered*
can be found on our web site:

www.kaba.org



KABA is the lead business organization that drives economic development throughout Kenosha County and supports and provides services to its members and the community, helping to ensure growth, a robust economy, and a positive business climate for the Kenosha Area.



From the President...

WILLKOMMEN HARIBO! TOTAL TEAM EFFORT LANDS ONE OF THE LARGEST FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) PROJECTS IN WISCONSIN'S HISTORY!

The recent news that HARIBO would build its first U.S. production facility in Pleasant Prairie was met with tremendous excitement. The investment is substantial and will result in one of the largest confectionery manufacturing sites in North America. It also brings with it hundreds of high-paying jobs from a company that is consistently recognized as a "Best Place to Work."

A spring 2018 construction start is planned, allowing time for design/engineering, infrastructure development, and site preparation work. We are thrilled with this announcement and excited to see the project start to take shape. A visit to HARIBO's new manufacturing site in Graftschaff, Germany left our team incredibly impressed as to the quality and scale of their facilities.

This is a great time to recognize several key partners that worked together to secure this major investment for Wisconsin.

Governor Scott Walker - the Governor is Wisconsin's leading jobs advocate and was a major player in securing this project. From the outset, he made it clear to HARIBO that Wisconsin wanted the investment and provided the optimal business environment to ensure Haribo's success now, and into the future.

The Village of Pleasant Prairie and its Board of Trustees, Administrator Mike Pollocoff and his entire team - This project would likely not be happening in Wisconsin without the leadership and foresight that the Village demonstrated. The Village acquired a nearly 500-acre development site to secure this investment. After accounting for HARIBO's planned development, the Village has 300+ acres which they intend to develop as Prairie Highlands Corporate Park. Few municipalities have done more to set the table for economic development.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) - the WEDC was engaged in this process from the outset and immediately recognized the opportunity this presented for the State to secure a game-changing FDI win. WEDC's responsiveness and aggressiveness in competing for this project was critical to our eventual success.

The Milwaukee 7 - Jim Paetsch helped quarterback this effort from the outset. This nearly nine-month site selection process required constant communication, reams of accurate and well-timed data, and a fair amount of creative problem solving. Jim's professionalism, intelligence, communication skills, and passion for our region's economic development were a constant and a key ingredient to our recipe for success.

Various other individuals and organizations provided support and leadership to this tremendous effort, including:

- > Kenosha County and County Executive Jim Kreuser
- > Gateway Technical College President Bryan Albrecht and his team
- > WEC Energy - the entire We Energies team and notably Joel Buraw and WEC Chairman Gale Klappa, an M7 co-chair and major champion for Southeast Wisconsin's economic development.
- > ULINe, Kenall Manufacturing, Niagara Bottling were key area employers that assisted and supported these efforts and worked with HARIBO and our team to address questions about the area and its business climate and labor force.
- > KABA's team of community and economic development professionals treated this as a top-priority, "drop everything" project for the better part of a year-and made sure we did anything and everything we could to support the process and a positive outcome.

At the risk of leaving somebody off of this list, I wanted to thank and recognize several key players that were integral to this effort. This is a game changing project for our community, region and state and one that we are extremely proud of.

Danke schoen. On Wisconsin!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES

ADVANCED PAIN
MANAGEMENT
apmhealth.com

AMAZON
amazon.com

ARIENS
ariensco.com

BLACKHAWK COMMUNITY
CREDIT UNION
bhccu.org

C.G. SCHMIDT, INC.
cgschmidt.com

COLBERT PACKAGING
colbertpkg.com

CRANE FARMS

DORAL CORPORATION
doralcorp.net

FINANCIAL SERVICE
GROUP, INC.
toyourwealth.com

THE HUNTINGTON
NATIONAL BANK
huntington.com

JACSTEN HOLDINGS, LLC
jacsten.com

JOURNEY CHURCH
jrnychurch.com

KD PLUMBING INC
kdplumbingllc.com

KABA INVESTOR NEWS

Gateway receives national workplace wellness award

Gateway Technical College has again been awarded a national workplace wellness award for its programs to promote employee and workplace wellness.

The Wellness Councils of America (WELCOA) recently recognized Gateway with a Gold Award which designates it as a Well Workplace and puts it on the List of America's Healthiest Companies published by the group annually.

Kenosha Water Utility recognized

At the American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) 2017 Wisconsin Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet in March, the Council gave State Finalist Awards to 10 projects that demonstrated a high degree of client satisfaction through quality, and cost effective solutions. It also gave Best of the State Awards to six projects that represented the highest degree of technical innovation, client satisfaction and contributions to the engineering industry. Of these six projects, the prestigious Grand Award was given to the Kenosha Water Utility for its Energy Optimized Resource Recovery Project.

Tom Kelley named 'Top 40 under 40'

Congratulations to Thomas Kelley III, vice president and chief financial officer at United Hospital System Inc., who was named to the 2017 class of 'Top 40 under 40' presented by the *Milwaukee Business Journal*. The class represents the future of community leadership in southeastern Wisconsin. Winners were honored at an awards event in February at The Pfister Hotel.

Clark Dietz wins Main Street Award

In April, Clark Dietz was recognized at the 26th Wisconsin Main Street Awards ceremony for "Best Upper Floor Rehabilitation" Project. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) presents awards to the best downtown revitalization projects. Clark Dietz moved into the historic Kenosha National Bank building's newly renovated 6th floor in March 2016. The 6th floor was designed as an open office concept which increases team collaboration and innovation.

Pinnacle Engineering Group opens office in Kenosha

Pinnacle Engineering Group recently opened an office in the Business Center of Kenosha. It's the company's third office. Pinnacle has additional locations in Brookfield, Wisconsin and East Dundee, Illinois.

"We are excited to continue our heavy involvement in one of the most active development zones in the state," said Pinnacle Engineering Group principal Adam Ante.

Kenall introduces new luminaire for food processing spaces

Kenall's new EnviroPro™ IMP Series luminaire is an IP-65 rated, top-serviceable 16" x 20" LED luminaire specifically designed for food processing and production facilities. The luminaire's optics help distribute the light and reduce glare, decreasing the number of fixtures needed. It is LED and uses fewer input watts, lowering energy bills. And it employs remote heat extraction, which reduces cooling costs and lengthens the life of the luminaire.

FOR THEIR RECENT INVESTMENT IN KABA:

LUEDER FINANCIAL GROUP –
NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL
downtown-mke.nm.com

NAI MLG COMMERCIAL
mlgcommercial.com

NEXT ELECTRIC INC.
nextelectricinc.com

OFFICE FURNITURE
WAREHOUSE
ofwgo.com

POINT READY MIX
pointreadymix.com

POP MANUFACTURING
popmanufacturing.com

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL
prairieschool.com

RICK L. PERRINE PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE, LLC
kenoshapropertymaintenance.com

VAXPRO, LLC
vaxpro.com

VRAKAS CPAS +
ADVISORS
vrakascpas.com

VTI SECURITY
vtisecurity.com

WHR GROUP
whrg.com



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Village of Somers welcomes Ariens Company to First Park 94 – it's first large scale industrial development

The Village of Somers is excited to welcome Brillion, Wisconsin-based manufacturer Ariens Company as the first tenant in the new industrial park First Park 94 - Somers' first large scale industrial development. Ariens signed a lease late last year for the 600,000 square foot newly-constructed building which is the first phase of First Park 94, under development by First Industrial Realty Trust.

Somers provided a \$250,000 development incentive to Ariens, as well as Kenosha County supplying \$250,000 from its High Impact Fund, administered by KABA.

"Companies like Ariens are what have made Wisconsin a manufacturing powerhouse and we are delighted to welcome them to our community," said Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser.

Ariens has hired approximately 40 people and is using the warehouse as a central hub for distribution of outdoor power equipment as well as parts and accessories.



The new Kenosha County facility is a strategically located distribution center for Ariens who consolidated operations they had throughout the Midwest into a single larger, more modern and more efficient facility.

"Finding the right distribution center is critical to our growth strategy. We appreciate the assistance of both the Village of Somers and Kenosha County for working with us, and for having the vision of making this area a key hub for distribution."

- Dan Ariens, CEO, Ariens Co.

FIRST PARK 94 MARKS SOMERS' FIRST LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

First Park 94 is a 309-acre master-planned business park developed by First Industrial Realty Trust. The project, which broke ground in August 2015, is located east of the Interstate 94 interchange, at 88th Avenue and 38th Street. First Park 94 can accommodate approximately 4.6 million square feet of development including build-to-suits ranging from 150,000 square feet to 1.5 million square feet. Securing a tenant for the first building led to the August 2016 groundbreaking on a second building for Phase 2. The new building-west of Ariens-totals 602,000 square feet with expandability.



"When Somers residents voted to create a village in 2015, the trustees immediately responded to developers who were waiting in the wings to make Somers their new home. As our first priority, we established two tax incremental districts and provided the needed utilities to close the deals," said George Stoner, President of the Village of Somers Board of Trustees. "The result is millions of dollars of new long term development on the books and a more than \$5 million investment in infrastructure in seventeen months. That impressive growth means Somers is meeting the needs of businesses who want to invest here."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Prestige Metal Products relocates operations To Bristol

Prestige Metal Products has chosen an 85,630-square-foot building in the Bristol Industrial Park in Kenosha County as the new site for its metal fabrication operations and company headquarters. The project, located at 19241 83rd St. in the Village of Bristol, will bring 46 jobs to the area and represents a \$2.5 million investment for the company, which was previously based in Antioch, Illinois.

Prestige Metal, which was founded in 1945, is relocating to a building that has been vacant for several years. Home City Ice will be an additional tenant, leasing 15,000 SF.

"The support from the community has been overwhelming. Everyone treated us like we were the next Amazon. We are very grateful and excited to be here in Wisconsin."

- John Annessi, Owner, Prestige Metal Products

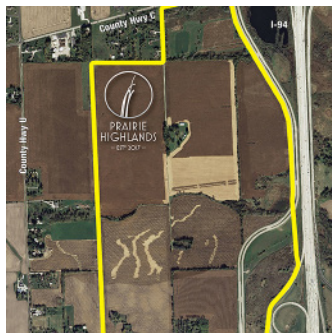
Prestige Metals provides custom sheet metal fabrication services, specializing in stainless steel products.

Pleasant Prairie approves TIF Plan creating new corporate park, home for HARIBO

On the heels of German confectionery company HARIBO's announcement that it will construct its first North American production facility on 137.5 acres in Pleasant Prairie, the Village and the Joint Review Board have approved the establishment of TIF No. 5. The new Tax Increment Financing district paves the way for the HARIBO development and the creation of Prairie Highlands Corporate Park.

In May, the Village purchased approximately 458 acres at the northwest corner of Highway Q and I-94 to facilitate the new corporate park with a focus on manufacturing, office and commercial uses.

Work to design and install infrastructure that will enable the development of Prairie Highlands is underway.



KABA PORTFOLIO UPDATE

In September 2016, KABA's Finance Committee approved a \$250,000 forgivable loan from Kenosha County's High Impact fund and a \$1,000,000 low interest loan for Ariens Company. The funds will assist Ariens in relocating to Kenosha County, as First Park 94's anchor tenant, and purchasing necessary equipment for the new location.

The low interest

loan will be

administered from the Consolidated Kenosha County (CKC) revolving loan fund.



In September 2016, KABA's Finance Committee approved a \$208,420 loan to HY Frontiers, doing business as Rustic Road Brewing Company. The funds will assist HY Frontiers in the acquisition of a new location in downtown Kenosha, as well as equipment necessary for their expansion plans. The loan will be issued out of the downtown TID #4 revolving loan fund.

In April 2017, KABA's Finance Committee approved a \$1,250,000 loan to Gorman Heritage House, LLC. The funds will assist Gorman Heritage House in the acquisition, renovation, and rehabilitation of the Heritage House into a boutique hotel in downtown Kenosha. The

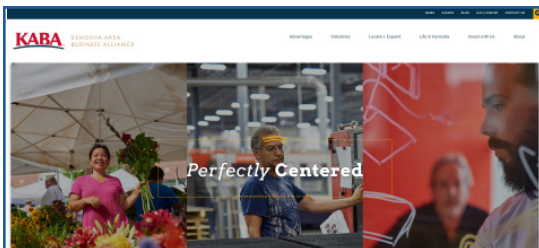


project will include rehabilitating the existing structure and the construction of an adjacent structure to complete

the remodeled hotel. The loan will be issued out of the downtown TID #4 and the Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) revolving loan funds.

In April 2017, KABA's Finance Committee approved a \$932,000 loan to Varin/Library Park LLC. The funds will assist Varin/Library Park LLC in the rehabilitation of the old YMCA building in downtown Kenosha into 49 apartment units. The loan will be issued out of the City revolving loan fund.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



KABA is excited to launch its completely redesigned web site: kaba.org

The overarching theme of the new kaba.org are two words that KABA believes truly embody Kenosha County: 'Perfectly Centered'.

'Perfectly Centered' describes Kenosha County's location in the heart of the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor – within an easy commute for more 3.5 million potential employees and at the intersection of a broad transportation network that runs through one of the largest metropolitan areas in the country.

'Perfectly Centered' also illustrates the idea that a lifestyle can be had here that allows for a positive work-life balance with more open space, less congestion and a real sense of community.

The new kaba.org highlights all that's great about working, living and especially doing business in Kenosha County. We welcome your thoughts and feedback – please feel free to contact Becky Noble at bnoble@kaba.org.

United Hospital expanding its St. Catherine's campus

United Hospital System has begun building a new 242,000 SF, four-story Advanced Outpatient Surgical Wing at its St. Catherine's Medical Center Campus in Pleasant Prairie.

The conceptual plan calls for 61,941 SF on the first floor, which will house a lobby, lounge, cafe, courtyard, registration and waiting area, and private preoperative suites with a minimum of eight surgical suites along with recovery areas.

Also planned are a 46,653 SF lower level for support areas, an additional 40,448 SF on the second floor and 22,923 SF on the third and fourth floors will eventually house various outpatient services.



The new Advanced Outpatient Surgical Wing is expected to employ 100 to 125 employees. The front lobby area is scheduled to be completed by third quarter 2018, and the balance of the project will be done by second quarter 2019. Riley Construction is the general contractor.

Gateway Technical College receives WEDC grant for startup accelerator

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has awarded Gateway Technical College an \$80,000 grant to support its Launch Box Growth Accelerator Program, which will help 10 area entrepreneurial teams start or grow their business.

The grant will enable Gateway to conduct two intensive, 10-week Launch Box classes with five teams in each – one this fall and one in spring 2018.

This is Gateway's third grant for the program from WEDC, which has invested \$180,000 in Launch Box since its inception. All 14 companies that have participated in the program so far remain active, and together they have raised nearly \$300,000 and generated more than \$200,000 in sales revenue.

WEDC's Seed Accelerator Program was launched in 2012 to support nonprofit accelerators that support pre-seed, technology-based and growth-oriented businesses.

Economic growth, new initiatives, community partnerships...read about it in the 2016 KABA Annual Report, available at kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Zilber Property Group continues to invest in Kenosha County; breaks ground on three additional spec buildings

Zilber Property Group believes Kenosha County is a destination for industrial development today and for many years to come. Since entering the Kenosha County market in 2008, Milwaukee-based Zilber Property Group has acquired 15 and built seven industrial buildings in the Village of Pleasant Prairie and the City of Kenosha, and has recently announced plans for three additional spec developments that have begun or will begin construction this year. Tenants occupying these buildings include manufacturers, logistics companies and professional/office users.

The planned buildings in 2017 are: 72,590 square foot Zilber Industrial 1 and 149,811 square foot Zilber Industrial 2 in Pleasant Prairie's LakeView Corporate Park and 42,235 square foot Zilber Industrial 2 in the Business Park of Kenosha. Additionally, Zilber is currently in the planning and design stages for several industrial projects to be developed in 2018.



"Zilber Property Group continues to be grateful for the opportunity to participate in the economic development of Kenosha County through our industrial development projects."

- Chad Navis, Zilber's Director of Industrial Investments

ZILBER'S DEVELOPMENTS IN KENOSHA COUNTY

Zilber Property Group's first industrial spec building in Kenosha County was built in 2008 in LakeView Corporate Park. They have since developed six more and have three additional spec buildings planned this year, bringing the total to ten.

Building	Business Park	SF	Year Built	Municipality	Current Companies
Towne Industrial I	LakeView Corporate Park	82,242	2008	Pleasant Prairie	K&K Screw Products
Towne Industrial II	LakeView Corporate Park	51,635	2008	Pleasant Prairie	Insulation Plus
Towne Industrial III	LakeView Corporate Park	82,104	2009	Pleasant Prairie	Hospira/Pfizer
Towne Industrial IV	LakeView Corporate Park	51,540	2009	Pleasant Prairie	Geodis Logistics
Towne Industrial V	LakeView Corporate Park	60,256	2011	Pleasant Prairie	ECM USA
Towne Industrial VI	LakeView Corporate Park	176,433	2014	Pleasant Prairie	FNA
Zilber Industrial 1	Business Park of Kenosha	173,165	2016	Kenosha	Colbert Packaging/ Gateway Classic Cars

KABA holds its Annual Meeting; hears from the companies driving development

At the 2017 KABA Annual Meeting held March 22nd, Todd Battle moderated a panel discussion with five business leaders from companies that have recently relocated or expanded into Kenosha County. There was an insightful discussion about the companies' experiences initially investing and doing business in Kenosha County - what they appreciated and what could be improved. Board elections, an overview of KABA initiatives and a recap of 2016 results were also presented. Read more at kaba.org/news/list.



"It's easy to do business in Kenosha County."

-Frank Unick, CFO, Uline

EDUCATION / TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Understanding the Kenosha County labor market: Putting it all together

Increasingly, long term economic development success hinges on a community's capacity to support the human resource needs of business and industry. As KABA keeps its foot on the accelerator with respect to economic development, we must also intensify efforts to develop, retain and attract talent. This is a focal point for KABA in 2017 and beyond as we work with employers and our education and workforce development partners to address this issue.

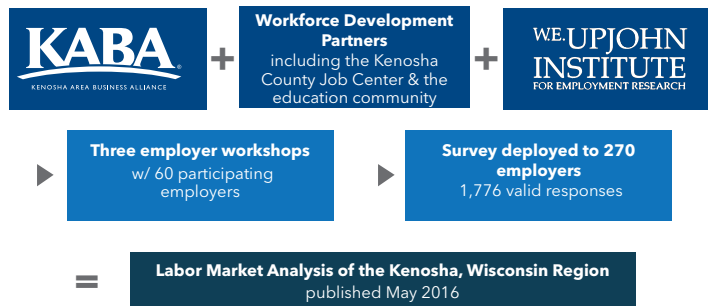
In 2016, KABA commissioned the *Kenosha County Labor Market Analysis** to better understand the current labor market, its advantages and potential challenges. It also developed the *Kenosha County Out-Commuter Analysis** to understand our commuting population. KABA and its partners are using this detailed data to guide its efforts to help employers find the talent they need to be successful.

KABA is working with our partners to implement the recommendations made by Upjohn, most immediately:

1. Work with employers to be more aggressive and effective in their employment outreach efforts.
2. Improve employability skills of the existing workforce.
3. Align employers, community and educators around strategies to promote a career-going culture for students in K-12 and higher education.

*The *Labor Market Analysis* and *Out-Commuter Survey* are available at kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center.

1. Better understand the current labor situation to make more informed decisions to meet the talent needs of local employers.



2. Use the data to assess current and future talent attraction, retention and engagement efforts.



Inspire 2017 brings out the best in our lives, our work, our teams, and our community through intentional and positive leaderships.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 @ Journey Church

A premier one-day leadership development experience located centrally in the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor, featuring high-caliber national and regional speakers & experts providing inspirational content to elevate your personal and professional leadership journey.

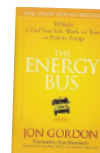
Learn more at kaba.org/about/inspire.



featuring international best-selling author & speaker

JON GORDON

attendees will receive a copy of his book *The Energy Bus*



The exciting 2017 speaker lineup also includes Rick LaBerge, Chief Operating Officer, HARIBO North America; Chris Van Etten, Marine Veteran, Double Amputee and Model for Jockey's Show 'em What's Underneath campaign; Christine Specht, CEO, Cousins Subs; Justin Mathews, Coordinator of 'A Night to Remember' prom for special needs individuals. The event is moderated by Aleta Norris, expert leadership coach and principal at Living as a Leader.

ON LEADERSHIP

Leading Change | by Aleta Norris

"When something new begins, something old and familiar ends."

Leading change efforts in organizations is rarely easy. And from what research tells us, it's rarely successful. The human factor is where leaders need to focus!

Much of what gets written about focuses on change from the organizational level - the strategic execution of the change effort. Our view of change is often formulaic. If we plan, communicate and implement well enough, everything will fall into place. The reality is that successful change requires people to change. So, as leaders, if we want to be more successful at leading change, we have to be better at helping people overcome their disappointment, fear and resistance.

Example: A local organization built a beautiful, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. The female assembly workers struggled to accept this change, because they now had to keep their purses in lockers, and the restrooms were a good three-minute walk from their work stations.

Example: In another organization, a multi-million dollar software implementation was compromised, because employees were upset by their discomfort with the system and, even moreso, with the lack of support AND empathy from their leaders. The lack of care from the leadership led to resentment and an adverse impact on productivity.

In both of these situations, organizations spent millions of dollars on the change itself. Neither invested in equipping leaders to effectively respond to the predictable concerns or pushback of the employees.

In all change situations, leaders need to be equipped with an understanding that employees may struggle. The most effective leaders will proactively do the following: 1) Listen to what the employees are feeling; 2) Show empathy and support; 3) Involve employees in shaping change or the implementation of change; 4) Provide praise and encouragement; and 5) Provide training and support.

The human side of change is your key. For your employees, the little things are the big things.

Aleta Norris provides an ongoing column on developing better leadership skills. She is a leadership expert and Principal at Living as a Leader LLC.



A passion for lifelong learning | by Dr. Sue Savaglio Jarvis

Many people don't know that I first entered college with ambitions of becoming a physical therapist. It was there that I discovered my passion for helping others and my true love of learning. Upon this realization, I made a change in schools and focused on becoming a physical education teacher.

What I didn't realize about myself at the time is how passionate about learning I would be.

I quickly learned one of the joys of teaching children is witnessing moments when they truly comprehend what is being shared with them. It may seem little, but seeing those ah-ha moments is inspiring. This drove me to learn as much as I could about how students learn and the teaching profession because I wanted to make a tremendous impact in the lives of all children.

While I had always been strong in school academically, I found myself immersed in my studies and loving every minute of it. Not only was I gaining valuable knowledge, I was truly enjoying all that I was reading, hearing and researching - it was energizing! I loved learning about teaching, students and the unique gifts that each child brings into this world so much that I pursued and attained both my masters and doctorate as well.

If you are truly passionate about something, you will want to learn more and do more. Your passion becomes your motivation to learn more, and the knowledge you gain can bloom into amazing things, such as landing your dream career.

In the words of Alfred Mercier, "What we learn with pleasure we never forget."

Dr. Sue Savaglio-Jarvis is the Superintendent of the Kenosha Unified School District, the fourth largest in the state of Wisconsin.



The next Nonprofit Board Development Program session begins in October



In October, YLink will host its second annual Nonprofit Board Development Program to train and educate young professionals interested in serving on local non-profit boards. The program was created in response to ongoing discussions and requests from area organizations who are looking for young professionals to serve on their boards of directors. The program curriculum consists of:

- > Overview of nonprofit structure
- > Financial management
- > Fundraising
- > Strategic planning
- > Legal & ethical responsibilities

Individuals or nonprofits who are interested in the program may contact Brooke Infusino at binfusino@kaba.org or 262.925.3464 for more information.

Future 5 honors outstanding local YPs

YLink presented five up-and-coming young professionals with Future 5 Awards at an exciting and inspiring event in May. Honorees included (pictured below, left to right): **John Hogan**, Dooley & Associates; **Megan Wells, MG**; **Brandi Cummings**, Kenosha Public Library; **Sharmain Harris**, Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency; and **Laura Tyunaitis**, Kenosha Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau.



It's vital that YLink and the entire community highlight those who are positively influencing the quality of life in Kenosha County through their professional accomplishments, leadership, community involvement and vision for Kenosha's future. Why? YLink's board of directors will tell you it's because:

- > Recognition for a job well done is motivation to work harder.
- > Building a community culture that embraces the talents and ideas of young professionals is a powerful component to our future.
- > And, now - at a time when we are seeing phenomenal economic growth - we need a strong pipeline of talent that will champion our community and the businesses and organizations that reside here.

Thanks to all who came to cheer on our award winners and support YLink and its mission!

YP Week 2017

A few hundred Kenosha young professionals representing many local companies and organizations participated in at least one of seven YP Week events held in Kenosha during the week of April 23. Some of the unique events this year included a Ramen Rumble culinary competition, a conversation with TED speaker Hannah Brencher, pie baking at Elsie Mae's and a behind the scenes tour of Amazon.

Thank you to all who participated and to our generous sponsors: Uline, Gateway Technical College and Jockey International.



ypWeek



OVATION AWARDS

Nominate an outstanding Kenosha County company for the 2017 Ovation Awards!

Nominations are now open for the 2017 Ovation Awards, recognizing business excellence in Kenosha County! KABA will be honoring a Business, Small Business & Entrepreneur of the Year as well as five companies that are growing and shaping Kenosha County's economy—The Fast Five. The nomination process is fast and easy and entirely online: kaba.org/ovation-awards.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, July 21.

Save the date for this year's awards dinner: **Thursday, November 2nd.**

In other news...

Read more about these stories and others at kaba.org/news/list.

DOWNTOWN KENOSHA NAMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Downtown Kenosha, Inc. Board of Directors announced in April that it hired Nicole Thomsen as its new Executive Director. Thomsen is a local resident of Pleasant Prairie and brings to the organization a strong background in community engagement, fundraising and non-profit project work.

Thomsen was chosen from a field of more than 50 applicants, who were vetted and interviewed by a selection team of DKI Board Members, with assistance from KABA. She officially began her role on May 1. She can be contacted at director@downtownkenosha.org.

CARTHAGE COLLEGE NAMES PRESIDENT: JOHN SWALLOW

The Carthage Board of Trustees unanimously elected John R. Swallow to serve as president of the College.

President-elect Swallow brings an entrepreneurial approach and highly relevant experience as a senior administrator, trustee, and faculty member at three small, private liberal arts institutions. He comes to Carthage from The University of the South.

He becomes the 23rd president in Carthage's 170-year history, succeeding Gregory S. Woodward.

TOURIST SPENT \$209 MILLION IN KENOSHA COUNTY IN 2017

According to an article by the Kenosha Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau, visitor spending continued to surge in 2016, increasing 6.3% to reach \$209 million. This marks the third straight year that Kenosha County's spending growth is in the top 10 of all counties in Wisconsin. Visitor spending has grown an average of 5.3% annually since 2012. Travelers spent \$59 million on food & beverages and \$34 million in the lodging sector last year. The retail sector in Kenosha County received \$67 million from visitors.

Visitor spending in Wisconsin grew 3.3% in 2016, marking the seventh year of visitor spending growth. Visitor spending increased by \$390 million in 2016 to reach \$12.3 billion.

WI SURGES INTO THE TOP 10 IN BEST STATES FOR BUSINESS'

Wisconsin moved into the top ten in *Chief Executive Magazine's* 'Best States for Business' for the first time ever. In 2010, Wisconsin was among the 10 worst states for business with a ranking of 41.

The rankings evaluate taxes, workforce quality, quality of life, and take into consideration what CEOs are saying about each state.

See the full rankings at chiefexecutive.net/best-worst-states-business.



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