

# Perfectly Centered

Triannual Newsletter of the  
**Kenosha Area Business Alliance(KABA)**

SUMMER 2023

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## KABA announces its next President

The Board of Directors of the Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA) is thrilled to announce that Nicole Ryf will be joining the organization as its next President.

"We are confident that we have found the ideal leader for KABA. Nicole is the right person to lead Kenosha County's development forward and build on the success we have had," said Jens Emerson, KABA Chair. "She is a bright and energetic professional with Wisconsin roots and extensive experience in business attraction, retention/expansion, and project financing. We are glad to welcome her to our corner of the state."

Nicole is a nationally recognized economic development professional with more than 15 years of experience in public, private, and nonprofit organizations. Over the course of her career, she has worked in multiple states at the local, county, regional, and state levels, including the Texas Governor's Office of Economic Development

*"The Kenosha Area Business Alliance is a world-class economic development organization, and I am thrilled to be selected as its new President. I look forward to collaborating with the top notch KABA Board, staff, and stakeholders to build upon KABA's strong legacy of serving the business community and attracting prospective companies to this dynamic county."*

— Nicole Ryf, incoming KABA President



Nicole Ryf begins at KABA on July 10.

& Tourism. She has assisted CEOs of Fortune 500 companies with their headquarters relocations, traveled the world to meet with business leaders, and led efforts to build the emerging offshore wind industry in Virginia.

Nicole's combination of experience, skills, vision, and personal qualities make her the perfect leader to bring Kenosha County into an exciting new era of growth. She holds a Master of Science in urban planning from UW-Milwaukee, and a Bachelor of Arts from UW-Madison. Most recently, Nicole served as the Executive Director at the Waukesha County Center for Growth. She replaces Todd Battle, who led the organization since 2004.

The KABA Board would like to thank the selection committee for their time and efforts through this process and the staff for their diligent work while the selection committee conducted the search for the new President.

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 Chair...

On behalf of the KABA board, I'd like to express our excitement as we welcome Nicole Ryf to the organization as our next President. A selection committee made up of volunteers from the board spent considerable time and energy working with our recruiting firm to gather and consider outstanding candidates from across the country. Nicole stood out as a stellar prospect and we are lucky to have her expertise and energy at KABA and Kenosha County. Nicole will undoubtedly provide us new ideas and some of her early efforts will be geared towards an understanding of the county and its key stakeholders, cultivating relationships and building trust, and learning more about our existing programs and community assets.

Throughout this process, the KABA team has had the opportunity to shine. They have been phenomenal, and I want to publicly thank them for their dedication to our membership and the Kenosha community - thank you Lisa, Brooke, Becky, and Brock!

It's a unique time in Kenosha County as many organizations throughout the community have seen an influx of new leadership including our local governmental and higher education offices. Each of us can be proud of our past accomplishments while also welcoming new perspectives that will undoubtedly serve Kenosha well.

It is also an exciting time in Kenosha County as several major projects are taking shape and economic development activity remains very high. Redevelopments at the Kenosha Innovation Center, the Downtown Area, the previous Dairyland Greyhound site, the Uptown Neighborhood and others are underway while an unprecedented level of new construction is happening. Kenosha County is poised for great things!

The Annual investment statements were recently sent out, so I want to close by expressing my appreciation for your continued support of KABA and their efforts to further economic development throughout all of Kenosha County.



## JENS

Vice President of Finance, Froedtert South;  
and Chair of the KABA Board of Directors

**KABA's 2022/23 Annual Report is now available on our website! Check out our data center - [kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center/](https://kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center/) - to read about Kenosha County's economic development in 2022 and looking ahead to a new era at KABA.**



# KABA NEWS & NOTES

## Save the date for the INSPIRE leadership event

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13** | 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Journey Church, Kenosha | Early bird rate: \$195  
(Available until August 31st; nonprofit and educator rates also available)

Inspire is excited to announce **Liz Wiseman** as the keynote speaker for the 2023 event!

Wiseman is a NYT best-selling author and CEO of the Wiseman Group based in Silicon Valley, CA. She has been consistently named one of the world's top 50 management thinkers.

Wiseman will be discussing content from her book *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter* which explores two leadership styles, Multipliers and Diminishers, and how Multipliers are getting more done with fewer resources, developing and attracting talent, and cultivating new ideas and energy to drive organizational change and innovation.



**Registration and additional details will be available soon!**  
**Get more info at**  
**[InspireKenosha.com](https://InspireKenosha.com).**

**Inspire is seeking sponsorships!** Contact KABA at [info@kaba.org](mailto:info@kaba.org) if you are interested.



## Dr. Michael Knetter speaks at KABA Annual Meeting

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting on April 25th! It was exciting to see the commitment to the success of our organization and the community. We are grateful to our investors and partners for their continued support.

KABA Chair Jens Emerson began the meeting with a look at economic development wins in 2022 and a look ahead to priorities for KABA in 2023 and beyond. He also shared some changes to our board of directors.

Mike Knetter from the University of Wisconsin Foundation shared his insights on the state and national economies and his optimistic take on what that means for Wisconsin in 2023, fielding lots of great questions from attendees.

We would like to thank our presenting sponsors Carthage College, HARIBO USA, Johnson Financial Group and Zilber Property Group. We also appreciate our supporting sponsors: Advocate Aurora Health, EMCO Chemical Distributors, Gateway Technical College, Riley Construction, and Uline.

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR THEIR INVESTMENT IN KABA

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## LMI Packaging expanding in Pleasant Prairie

LMI Packaging, a Pleasant Prairie-based manufacturer of lids and labels for packaging, is planning to add a 49,327 SF addition to its 70,995 SF facility in the LakeView Corporate Park. The company currently has 155 full-time and 25 part-time employees. That could grow to 200 to 300 full-time employees and 50 to 75 part-time employees with the expansion.

The company, a third-generation family-owned business, was founded in 1967 in Franklin Park, Illinois and moved to Pleasant Prairie in 1993.

J.P. Moran, CEO and owner, said the company has been experiencing significant growth and considered moving to a new location, but instead decided it wants to stay and expand in Pleasant Prairie.



*"We love it here. Our business is growing, 28% in 2020-21, 40% growth in 2022 and projected 47% growth in 2023. We've explored many options throughout southeastern Wisconsin, but we continue to come back to one simple fact. We want to be in Pleasant Prairie."*

*— J.P. Moran, CEO & Owner, LMI Packaging*

## Puratos celebrates exciting equipment expansion at their Kenosha manufacturing plant

Chocolate producer Puratos USA added a new line at their Kenosha facility. The company now has five production lines, which all together can put out about 30 million pounds of chocolate per year.

This multimillion dollar equipment expansion greatly increases their output and will add approximately 8 jobs, bringing their employment to 100 people.

Puratos began in Belgium as a father and son chocolate-making operation in 1919 and has evolved into a successful international company offering a full range of services and ingredients to customers in the bakery, patisserie, and chocolate industry worldwide. Puratos has had a facility in Kenosha for nearly 30 years.

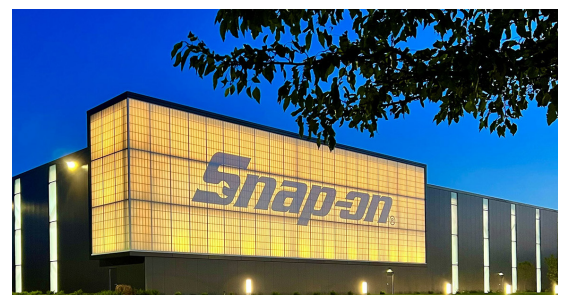
*"The chocolate market in the United States is growing, and the Kenosha factory expansion will help meet that demand with it's ideal business climate and location—sitting between Chicago and Milwaukee. Kenosha and Puratos have a bright future ahead."*

*— Andy Brimacombe, President, Puratos USA*



## Snap-on, Inc. named one of the most trusted companies in the U.S.

Kenosha-based Snap-on was one of 22 Wisconsin companies included in Newsweek magazine's second annual list of America's Most Trustworthy Companies. The basis of the analysis was an independent survey from a sample of about 25,000 U.S. residents, who rated companies they know in terms of three touchpoints of trust.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Olds products expanding footprint at its Pleasant Prairie facility

Food processing company Olds Products Co. announced plans for a four-phase expansion at its facility in LakeView Corporate Park to occur over the next seven years. The mustard and vinegar manufacturer plans to add 230,000 SF to their 266,025 SF facility and construct more than 20 new storage silos. The significant amount of additional storage is to address future supply chain issues. The expansion will add up to 90 new employees.

Family-owned Olds Products moved to Pleasant Prairie in 1996 from Chicago. The company produces as much as 75% of all product-label mustard in the United States, and as much as 95% for Canada.

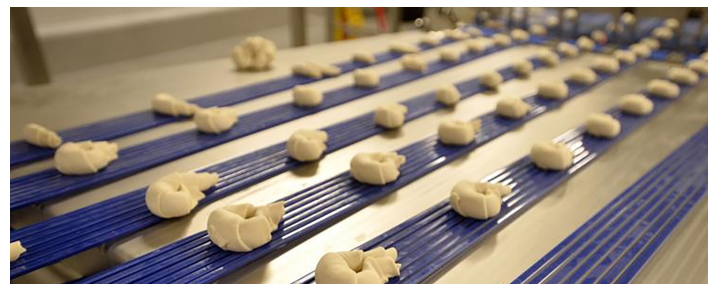


## With recent expansions, Uline now occupies nearly 15M SF in Kenosha County

In May, Uline Inc. gained unanimous approval from City of Kenosha elected officials for a 1.4 million SF distribution center. The building will be near Uline's existing Kenosha campus and is the first of four planned for 350 acres the company bought last year. Uline now employs roughly 3,500 people in more than 10 million SF of industrial and office space in Kenosha County. Uline's planned 350-acre development in Kenosha would add another 4.5 million SF of space. The Kenosha expansion is expected to begin later this year.

## Crown Bakeries acquires Gold Standard Baking, making it one of the largest croissant manufacturers in North America

Crown Bakeries, a manufacturer of fresh and frozen croissants, buns, bagels, biscuits, sweet goods, and dough products, has acquired Gold Standard Baking's Pleasant Prairie manufacturing facility. The 200,000 SF state-of-the-art baking facility opened in 2017, producing and distributing laminated dough croissant products. With the addition of the Pleasant Prairie facility, Crown Bakeries will produce more than 10 million baked croissants per week, making Crown one of the largest croissant bakers in North America.



## Nexus gains occupancy at its new manufacturing facility in Pleasant Prairie

Nexus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced recently that its newly constructed manufacturing facility in Pleasant Prairie was successfully inspected by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and will allow the company to begin commercial operations. Nexus is a US-based, family-owned, minority-led pharmaceutical manufacturer founded in 2003. The new plant is its first sterile drug manufacturing facility.



# LET'S TALK TALENT

## Debbie Ford leaves UW-Parkside for new role in Indiana closer to family

Debbie Ford has moved on from the University of Wisconsin - Parkside and begins as the new Chancellor of Indiana University Southeast on July 1.

Debbie was an outstanding and passionate leader for the University and she will be sorely missed. She was a true champion first-generation students, having been one herself. Nearly 60% of students at the Kenosha campus are the first in their families to go to college.

UW-Parkside remained one of the most diverse campuses in the UW system during Ford's tenure, and it reflected significant improvements in its student completion rates.

*"An outstanding regional leader, local partner, and personal friend, Debbie Ford and her work have led to tremendous impact, especially in student success. That impact will be felt long after her departure, and we will miss her enormously!"*

— Dr. John Swallow, President,  
Carthage College

Debbie and UW-Parkside received many accolades in her time here, including an Excellence in Innovation Award for Student Success and College Completion by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and recognition by the Network for Change and Continuous Innovation as one of three recipients of the inaugural Leaders of Change Recognition Program award. Mayor John Antaramian appointed Debbie to serve as the founding president of the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood.

The new position brings her closer to family in the greater Louisville area, including a grandchild who was born in spring. KABA appreciates Debbie's significant contributions to our organization and the entire community and wish her all the best in her next endeavor!



Dr. Ford was one of the UW System's longest serving chancellors having served at UW-Parkside since 2009.

## Upcoming Intern Mixer designed to help connect local interns and new hires to each other – and to the Kenosha Area

**When:** Thursday, June 22, 2023; 4:00-6:00 p.m. | **Where:** Petrifying Springs Biergarten, 5555 7th St Pavilion #1, Kenosha  
**Fee:** \$15; Includes one free drink, brat or hotdog, and a swag bag (Check if your employer can help support the tab. Valid ID required to purchase alcoholic beverages for those 21 and older.)

A summer internship isn't just about putting in the work! It also involves having fun experiences in the community where you're working. We'd like to welcome you to the Kenosha-Racine area as you embark on summer in southeast Wisconsin. This event is designed to help connect local interns and new hires to each other – and with the a variety of community amenities offered in our region. Attendees will:

- > Meet interns from other companies
- > Learn from experienced young professionals on why they call Kenosha and Racine home
- > Discover resources in the community that align with your interests
- > Experience one of our region's community assets at Petrifying Springs Park

The mixer will feature a brief panel discussion from established YPs who have unique viewpoints on what keeps them in the area. As a bonus, starting at 6 p.m., interns can join in on trivia night at the Biergarten. Attendees will receive a swag bag with information about what makes southeast Wisconsin an attractive place to live and work.

Register as an intern/new hire by June 16 at [bit.ly/InternMixer\\_2023](https://bit.ly/InternMixer_2023).



# LET'S TALK TALENT!

## The new Educational Opportunity Center at UW-Parkside aims to close existing equity gaps in degree completion

The pandemic was a disruptive force in every aspect of life and the economic recovery has been uneven with continued supply chain issues, employee resignations and inflation. Businesses are looking for creative ways to meet the needs of their current employees and attract skilled and motivated new talent. Offering educational and training support are attractive benefits but require time and personnel that many companies simply don't have available. The timing couldn't be more perfect for the University of Wisconsin-Parkside to have received a five-year grant to fund the creation of an Educational Opportunity Center (EOC).

UW-Parkside understands that aligning personal goals with educational pathways can seem daunting, not to mention navigating financial aid, school applications, course registration while balancing the responsibility of family, work and life.

The EOC was created to help support adults who are looking for growth opportunities but are unsure about returning to school. They provide free information, guidance and counseling on how to pursue continuing educational opportunities.

Through workshops and one-on-one sessions, the EOC will support:

- > FAFSA and application completion for any institution
- > Completion of GED/HSED, two-year, and four-year degrees
- > College and career readiness skills
- > Academic study skill preparation
- > Financial literacy skills
- > Career searches

UW-Parkside has partnered with educational partners in the region including:

- > University of Wisconsin-Parkside
- > Gateway Technical College
- > McHenry Community College
- > Herzing University
- > Carthage College
- > University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

The EOC would also like to partner with area businesses and help get the word out to employees who could benefit from their services. UW-Parkside is working to help overcome the lingering pandemic challenges and fill education and skill gaps in the labor force. Their mission is to bolster educational achievements, career success and overall quality of life for individual participants as well as grow the economic capacity of the region.



For more information about the EOC at UW-Parkside, or to direct a potential participant their way, email the staff at [eoc@uwp.edu](mailto:eoc@uwp.edu), or visit the website [www.uwp.edu/eoc](http://www.uwp.edu/eoc).

## PARTNER UPDATE...



### BUILDING OUR FUTURE RELEASES ITS ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

This past year brought exciting progress to Building Our Future and, in turn, our community. By aligning efforts with school districts, families, youth, elected officials, community organizations, and businesses, BOF is committed to creating an educational system that provides each student with access to future economic prosperity. Learn more about BOF's work and impact in the new 2022 annual report, available at the KABA Data Center: [kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center](http://kaba.org/locate-expand/data-center) (under 'Other Kenosha County Reports').



# LET'S TALK TALENT!

## Carthage Spark to heat up hiring and education in Kenosha County and beyond

Let's face it. Kenosha County deserves a better functioning labor market. Our employers need more people to hire into jobs. Our residents need more education to qualify for many of those jobs, and especially for the jobs that offer a family-sustaining wage. This is the only route to greater prosperity.

As the situation has become prolonged, employers have taken some steps they can. They are offering more in pay, and signing and retention bonuses. They are advertising more, on billboard after billboard. But it's not enough. Many jobs are going unfilled. At the same time, fewer and fewer young people are pursuing any education after high school, taking higher wages than in years past but not pursuing a path that will advance themselves or our economy over the long term.

If we are to succeed, our residents will need more education. The rate of high school graduates in Kenosha pursuing any postsecondary education – at any 2-year or 4-year institution – recently fell by 20 percentage points.

If we are to succeed, our residents will need family-sustaining jobs. A recent Wisconsin Policy Forum report on Kenosha County noted that, when compared to other similarly sized Midwestern counties, our average household income was average, while our average wages were much lower. That means more people, including parents, must work more than one job. That's not the environment for prosperity for our county. Yes, we have more jobs. But that's not translating to more prosperity.

Make no mistake. These are not simply pandemic-era trends. They go back years and simply accelerated during the pandemic. Even if a recession took us back to pre-pandemic supply and demand, we would face these same concerns.

It's time we get on with solutions. Doing the same thing for longer and longer will not produce a different result. And why

should we wait for someone else – the federal government, the state of Wisconsin, some think tank – to solve our problems, when we know our situation best?

We need to roll up our sleeves and get it done, just like we did when Kenosha started high schools, hospitals, and other institutions that were needed.

An idea we need now is actually an old idea whose time has come again. That is workplace-delivered education, a modern version of "night school."

The old part of this idea is that working people used to be able to learn post-high-school-level skills in lots of ways.

In 1962, when Carthage opened in Kenosha, faculty were teaching working students in multiple locations, from Milwaukee to North Chicago to, of course, Kenosha. Back then, unions also provided ways for younger people to learn needed skills, and the high membership rate ensured wide access.

The new part of the idea is that we make access

to education as smooth now as it was then, but tailored to modern circumstances. Today, whether it is households with two working parents, or employee work schedules that change with demand, not everyone can go to a class scheduled at night, far from their home or workplace. But a class right at the workplace, in a training room, right at the beginning or the end of a shift – that can work.

What's more, low-cost, workplace-delivered education can be a way to recruit more employees, solving the hiring problem and the education problem at the same time. This has, in fact, already begun. Companies like Amazon are already offering employees free online college courses. Here, we can do better, offering employees in-person education tailored to the needs of industries and employees, paid for by employers, for less than the cost of signing bonuses, and for greater value to employees.

That's the program we're calling Carthage Spark. We're beginning with our first partner, LMI Packaging Solutions in Pleasant Prairie, where 11 employees just completed a college-level business course offered on site. In this way, we are recruiting new employees for LMI and increasing the ranks who will now pursue more post-high-school education than they would have otherwise. That's a win for us all.

If your company has great hiring needs, Carthage Spark may very well be the solution you need.

Written by John Swallow, President, Carthage College.



# ON LEADERSHIP

## Practice Sonder on the Street | by Aleta Norris

In our own lives, we recognize how a variety of complex factors shape our actions. We know if we showed up late for an appointment, it could be because one of the kids needed something right before we walked out the door, or we hit traffic when a car accident closed down the freeway. But as we observe others, we only know what we see on the surface, and we make assumptions. If you were late, I might assume that it's because you can't stick to a schedule, you're lazy, or you don't view timeliness as a priority.

In psychology, this is called the Fundamental Attribution Error. This means that for ourselves, we ascribe all the situations and environmental conditions that we know went into shaping our actions. But in others, we only see the surface, so we don't stop to think about everything they may be struggling with, thinking about or facing. No one holds a sign around their neck that says, I'm worried about my mother's health while she gets medical tests today, and that's why I seem distant at today's meeting. Or, "I have a special needs child, and that is what makes my schedule less predictable than others." Seeing someone check out at a meeting, we may think they're disengaged or just don't care about this project. Or working with someone who requires more flexibility in their schedule may feel unfair unless you realize the unseen challenges.

One way to begin softening our very-human tendency toward Fundamental Attribution Error is a practice called sonder. The idea of sonder refers to the profound feeling of realizing that everyone, including strangers you pass on the street, has a

life as rich and complex as your own. Practice sonder on the street, the train, a coffee shop or anywhere people are around.

Look at the people surrounding you right now. Realize that they all have lived rich and full lives just like you, full of hardships and pain, hopes and dreams, love and heartbreak, with boring, mundane tasks and moments of pure joy. They all have perspectives on life and belief systems and goals for the future.

The same is true for the people you lead. Remember that we can see below the surface of our own actions, but we don't automatically think about the backstories that drive and shape the lives and actions of other people, including our employees. It takes an extra effort to see what's driving their attitudes, beliefs and actions. For leaders, it's necessary to take an additional step. This helps us see the people around us as people, not as objects.

Aleta Norris provides an ongoing column about leadership. She is a leadership expert and Principal at Living as a Leader LLC.



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## Tea and three Ts | by Dr. Rita Raju

My day usually begins with enjoying a cup of tea and reading *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications such as the *Kenosha News*.

You may wonder: Why does the president of a technical college read these publications on a daily basis? The answer is simple - as a leader in a technical college, my role is not only to keep abreast with, but also to stay ahead of technological, educational, economic and other factors in the landscape that impact our communities. A technical college plays a vital role in the economic well-being of a region. Here at Gateway, in a region that serves as a manufacturing hub and a home to a growing and diverse population, it's even more important to stay up to date with regional trends.

As I have transitioned into my role at Gateway, I've been very impressed by the strong connectedness between our business communities, agencies like KABA and local chambers of commerce, community organizations and local government agencies. Gateway is deeply embedded in the fabric of this connectedness and often serves as a convening

platform for our various stakeholders.

The role that I play and the philosophy that governs my work can be defined by three "Ts." The first "T" is talent. The second "T" that informs my work is training. The third "T" that guides my work is thought partnership.

My leadership style is collaborative and it always aims to be transformative. I'm honored to continue our college's work and to strengthen the legacy that Gateway has established in more than a century of operation.

This excerpt was written by Dr. Rita Raju, President, Gateway Technical College. Read the entire article at [kaba.org/news/blog](https://kaba.org/news/blog).



# KABA partners with KUSD to expose students to a variety of career opportunities at local employers

KABA partnered with Kenosha Unified School District on tours of local manufacturers on May 2nd. Students from Tremper High School visited Nosco and ASYST Technologies, LLC and explored what the companies make and what it's like to work there.

If you're a local employer who would like to get involved in providing tours to local students, please contact Brooke Infusino at [binfusino@kaba.org](mailto:binfusino@kaba.org). Business + Education = Community Wins!



## In other news...

### WISCONSIN NAMED 8TH BEST STATE IN THE NATION

Where does Wisconsin rank in a list of the Best States in America? Number eight according to *U.S. News and World Report*. The rankings draw on thousands of data points to measure how well states are performing. They take into account health care and education; a state's economy; its roads, bridges, internet and other infrastructure; its public safety; its natural environment; the fiscal stability of state government; and the opportunity it affords its residents.

### WISCONSIN'S LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE HIGH AMONG 'PRIME WORKING AGE' ADULTS

Wisconsin often has among the highest labor force participation rates in the country for "prime working age" residents (between the ages of 25 and 54) on an annual basis, according to a report recently released by UW-Madison. The report also explores county-level prime working age labor force participation. Kenosha County has labor participation rates for both men and women that are significantly higher than the national average in an estimate from 2017-2021.

[Read more about these stories and others at \[kaba.org/news/list\]\(https://kaba.org/news/list\).](https://kaba.org/news/list)

## SEEN ON SOCIAL...

### @RILEYCONSTRUCTIONCOMPANY

The annual Riley Games have kicked off! Employees gathered at The Sandlots of Salem to compete in the Riley Games Kickball Tournament last week. The competitors and leadership team had lots of laughs as they sprinted around the bases and cheered each other on! After the final game, everyone cooled down with pizza and beverages. Congrats to our new Shop Supervisor who earned a new nickname on his 2nd day on the job – "Steel Toe" for his powerhouse kick!

Special thanks to the Riley Fun Committee for bringing us together for a day of joy and celebration! #RileyGames2023





# # DOWNTOWN #UPTOWN #ONETOWN #KENOSHA STRONG

## City of Kenosha unveils Downtown redevelopment plans

The City of Kenosha Plan Commission has approved a development plan from Cobalt Smith, a partnership of Cobalt Partners, LLC of Milwaukee and C. D. Smith, a general contractor and development firm based in Fond du Lac. The comprehensive plan covers nine blocks of Downtown Kenosha bordered by Sheridan Road on the west, 52nd Street on the north, 56th Street on the south and Lake Michigan on the east.

The plan calls for over 1,000 living units in several mid-rise buildings and one larger tower, along with condominiums on the eastern most block to complement the existing Harbor Park district. A central park and laneway would connect



residential buildings with a market hall, food kiosk, and retail space. Plans call for a full-service hotel on Sheridan Road along with two office buildings. Ample green space, green roofs and use of solar panels are just some of the sustainable features planned in the development.



## Update Lofts construction continues

The Uptown Lofts development is moving right along in the Uptown Kenosha neighborhood. Occupancy on the lower level commercial space is expected to be first quarter 2024. That level will include La Estrella Grocery store and the Uptown Restaurant—both of which were located on the block previously—and a new Children's Library branch of the Kenosha Public Library. There will also be 73 residential units on the upper floors.



The City of Kenosha and the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood, Inc. recently unveiled the conceptual design plans for the \$22.8 million Innovation Center to be built as one of the first two structures at the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood at the 107-acre former Chrysler plant site.

The 60,000 SF building will provide co-working space for startups and will also be used as a welcome center for the Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood, and will house staff for Kenosha Innovation Neighborhood Inc., community development efforts including a partnership with gener8tor's gBETA program and could also house community and education partners.

Read more about these stories and others at [kaba.org/news/list](https://kaba.org/news/list).



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Interim Chancellor,  
UW-Parkside

### Tom Moore

Senior VP, Senior  
Commercial  
Banking Manager,  
Johnson Financial  
Group

### Chad Navis

Vice President,  
Zilber Property  
Group

### Aldo Pagliari

Senior VP - Finance  
& CFO, Snap-on  
Incorporated

### Mike Pitts, Jr.

Owner, Pitts  
Brothers  
& Associates

### Matt Prince

CEO, Riley  
Construction  
Company

### Dr. Ritu Raju

President/CEO,  
Gateway Technical  
College

### Corey Schultz

VP of Sales &  
Marketing,  
Five Star Fabricating

### Charles Skendziel

Owner, Equity  
Creative

### Maureen Sorensen

VP - Operations,  
RPM International,  
Inc. - Specialty  
Coatings Group

### Mike Thompson

President & CEO,  
Fair Oaks Foods

### Wayne Wehking

Executive VP Sales  
& Marketing,  
Kenosha Beef  
International

### Dr. Jeff Weiss

Superintendent,  
Kenosha Unified  
School District

## STAFF

### Lisa Feltson

Office Manager

### Brooke Infusino

Director of Talent  
Development

### Becky Noble

Director of Marketing

### Brock Portilia

Director of Finance &  
Administration

### Nicole Ryf\*

President

*\*begins July 10, 2023;  
pronounced [RIFF]*



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