

Pike County
Economic Development Corporation
1301 E Washington, PO Box 214
Pittsfield, IL 62363
217-440-5101
www.pikeedc.org

Important Reminder!

Set up your Email Spam Filter
to accept:

bmiddendorf@pikeedc.org

This will ensure timely delivery of
any email correspondence you may
receive from PCEDC.

2016-2017
PCEDC Board of Directors

Jim Brown
Craig Gengler
Kent Goewey
Casey French
Patrick Conley
Jake Bartlett
Jim Sheppard
Karrie Spann
Robert Wood

2016 PCEDC Officers
Chairman: Jim Brown
Vice-Chair: Patrick Conley
Secretary: Karrie Spann
Treasurer: Jim Sheppard



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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2—SPRING 2016

Welcome to the Spring 2016 edition of *Development Matters*, a newsletter of the Pike County Economic Development Corporation. As a valued member and supporter of PCEDC, you will receive this newsletter to help keep you informed of our activities and possible opportunities for businesses and area organizations. We hope that you will find the information useful and beneficial.

PCEDC is dedicated to our mission to support and expand business and employment by improving the quality of life, utilizing our human and natural resources, and by promoting communication and partnerships throughout Pike County.



Brenda Middendorf
Interim Exec. Director

Interim

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone again for coming out to the PCEDC Annual Meeting and to also thank our hosts, Owen & Lisa Brown and family at GFC Manufacturing. We had an amazing tour of their facility, followed by a taste of their new meat line. Congratulations to the Browns for all they have accomplished! They are a true economic development success story. It was great seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting and showed your commitment to our mission to support and expand business and employment by promoting communication and partnerships throughout Pike County. It proved you are serious about wanting to improve our quality of life, utilizing our human and natural resources. Economic Development is not just about attempting to bring more jobs or more economic activity into a community. It is focused on "development", which is about improvement and progress. Economic Development needs to be facilitated through careful planning and effective implementation of a community-building process. This mindset involves a number of activities and programs that create a sustainable healthy economy such as:

- Creation of a skilled workforce;
- Development of the physical infrastructure;
- Improvement of the business environment;
- Availability of attractive and suitable land and buildings
- Maintenance of the environment and
- Improvement of the quality of life.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER—CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The promotion and marketing of the community is still important, but it is first critical to “create the product” to be marketed, namely a positive business climate and a community attractive for business investment.

Today, economic development is truly about quality of life. It's about increasing per capita wages, training a workforce and enhancing infrastructure that in turn protects and enhances our area's resources. This is achieved by providing existing businesses and potential businesses with access to specific information and an array of programs, (local, state and federal), that are available to help with their expansion and growth, or to establish a new business.

In January, we conducted Strategic Planning sessions in 3 different locations throughout the county but we'd like to have more feedback from you to know what your thoughts are regarding economic development and what your expectations are of the corporation. Please share your thoughts on what kind of results you are looking for in economic development so we can create a plan for getting work done. Our committees will also be meeting over the next few weeks to create their plan of work.

We thank you for your support and your willingness to be part of the team that makes Pike County a great place to live and work!

SEAN PARK JOINS PCEDC AS BUSINESS ADVISER



Sean Park

Sean Park, Business Advisor, has joined the staff at Pike County Economic Development Corporation. Sean has worked through the Small Business Development Center as a Business Advisor since 2012. He advises entrepreneurs on a wide variety of business issues, including but not limited to: finance, business plan development, Illinois business regulations and internet marketing. He also teaches classes in Small Business Development and Advertising, both online and in a hybrid video format for Spoon River College. Park holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Western Illinois University.

We feel very fortunate to be able to offer Sean's services to our members. His level of expertise will be a tremendous asset to our corporation.

To schedule an appointment with Sean, or for more information on the programs and services that are available through the Pike County Economic Development Corporation or to become a member of the organization, please call 217-440-5101 or email bmiddendorf@2riversrcd.org.

CASEY FRENCH APPOINTED AS NEW BOARD MEMBER

At each PCEDC Annual Meeting, 3 directors are elected to serve three year terms. The nine member board is comprised of five directors elected from qualifying public sector voting members representing the County of Pike and municipalities and four directors are elected from qualifying voting members representing the private sector. One public sector and two private sector positions were elected on April 7.

Casey French from Cass Communications was elected to fill one of the private sector vacancies. Casey provided us this information:

"My name is Casey French and I am from Virginia, IL. I have been the Public Relations and Marketing Director for CASSCOMM for over 5 years. Though, our home office is in Virginia IL, we serve 32 communities including Pittsfield and Griggsville. My wife Ashley, is a kindergarten teacher who is originally from Rushville, IL. We have three kids, a 4 year old and 2 year old twins. Outside of time with my family, I serve the community in many ways. I am on the Virginia CUSD School Board and the Virginia BBQ Committee. I have been regularly attending meetings over the past 5 years and I am excited to have recently been asked to join the PCEDC Board. I enjoy representing the communications side and will help Pike County in any way I can."

Cass Communications has been a voting member of PCEDC since 2011. We appreciate their commitment and look forward to having Casey on the Board of Directors.



Casey French

Other appointments included Craig Gengler , Farmers National Bank of Griggsville, reappointed to another three year term and the Village of Perry will be represented by Jake Bartlett and/or Nicki Mountain for a three year term.

Officers elected for the 2016- 2017 year include: Jim Brown, President; Patrick Conley, Vice-Chairman; Karrie Spann, Secretary and Jim Shepard, Treasurer.

We appreciate the Nominating Committee's efforts to fill the slate for the Board of Directors and the officer positions and also very much appreciate the individuals who have agreed to serve.

PLEASE SUPPORT NEW PHILADELPHIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Soon a Pike County landmark could become a National Park and a tourist destination. A public hearing about the National Park Service plans will be held on May 11 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Pike County Farm Bureau Building. There, residents can talk with local and federal officials about the proposal and actively support the National Park status.

The story of New Philadelphia is extraordinary: through a variety of enterprises, town founder Frank McWorter purchased freedom for himself and at least fifteen family members. In addition, McWorter purchased property in Illinois, a free-state, where he moved from Kentucky with his wife, three free-born children and a son freed from bondage.

McWorter made history in 1836 as the first African American in our nation to plat and legally register a town. New Philadelphia became a community where formerly enslaved and free-born African Americans lived alongside European Americans in one of the most racially strident eras of our country's history. You can actively support New Philadelphia for inclusion in the National Park Service by submitting your comments on inclusion to: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/New_Philadelphia_Special_Resource_Study from April 11 to June 11.

Here are a few key points that you may want to use in your remarks:

- Direct management by the National Park Service (NPS) would permanently protect New Philadelphia from development and inappropriate use of the land, ensuring preservation of the site's archaeological integrity for future study of a 19th century racially diverse community.
- The worldwide prestige associated with the National Park Service far exceeds the resources available through local management to attract visitors.
- New Philadelphia represents themes important to all Americans: the struggle for freedom, opportunity and love for family – principals that are relevant today.
- New Philadelphia is an inspiration for what can be accomplished through determination and resilience. Settlers cleared and cultivated sparse grassland to create productive farmland – an inspiration of what can be accomplished by determination and resilience.
- Free and formerly enslaved African Americans lived along side European Americans during one of the most racially strident eras of our country's history.
- Current management and land owners could serve in advisory positions to the National Park Service following New Philadelphia's inclusion in the park system
- Local residents could volunteer time and service at the site
- New Philadelphia's inclusion in National Park Service generated literature and advertising through the wide variety of electronic and print media, including the popular NPS Passport to Your National Parks program, would introduce and familiarize the nation and the world to New Philadelphia.

New Philadelphia was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, designated a National Historic Landmark in 2009, and included in the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program in 2013. There is currently no other comparable site represented in the 410 units of the National Park system. Only 24 of the 410 units, less than 6%, of the National Park Service are directly associated with African-American history. Your support for this project is crucial for making this place nationally recognized by inclusion into the National Park Service.

Your comments can profoundly affect NPA's inclusion in the National Park System.

EVENT CALENDAR

April

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Pike County Health Fair

9:30 am to 1:30

The Cross Roads

125 W Jefferson

Pittsfield, IL

Monday, April 25, 2016

PCEDC Monthly Executive Business Meeting

5:30pm

Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room

1301 E Washington

Pittsfield, IL

Monday, April 25, 2016

Pike County Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Upper Courtroom

Pike County Courthouse

Pittsfield, IL

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Disaster Preparedness For Business

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Pike County Farm Bureau

1301 E Washington

Pittsfield, IL 62363

\$25 registration

Call 217-223-8380 for registration or

Online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps/>

By April 21

See Flyer on page 7 for more information

May

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Hancock County CEO Trade Show

4:00 to 6:00 pm

Lake Hill Winery

1822 E County Road 1540

Carthage, IL

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

New Philadelphia Public Hearing

Pike County Farm Bureau Bldg

6:00 to 8:00 pm

1301 E Washington

Pittsfield, IL 62363

Monday, May 12, 2016

Business Retention/Workforce Development

12:30 pm

Pike County FB Conference Room

1301 E Washington

Pittsfield, IL 62363

Monday, May 23, 2016

PCEDC Executive Business Meeting

5:30 pm

Pike County Farm Bureau Conference Room

1301 E Washington

Pittsfield, IL 62363

Monday, May 23, 2016

Pike County Board Meeting

7:00 pm

Pike County Courthouse

Pittsfield, IL

NOT A MEMBER OF PCEDC...JOIN US TODAY!

It is because of the generosity of business and community partners that we are able to fulfill our mission to enhance the economic future and quality of life in Pike County by expanding employment opportunities through promoting the expansion and retention of business and industry, coordinating local and state resources to existing businesses, and by uniting Pike County community by coordinating economic development activities and cultivating partnerships. We are fortunate to have many great partnerships in the area that have helped us to promote economic development. If you are not part of our growing



Individual / Company Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Membership Level:

Individual Contributor (\$1-\$99) Associate Member (\$100-\$499)

Voting Member (\$500-\$999) Municipal Member (\$1 per capita: _____)

Sustaining Member (\$1000-\$1999) Premier Member (\$2000+)

Reciprocal (with approval) _____

More information on membership benefits is available by visiting www.pikeedc.org

A Few Reminders!!

Don't forget to tune in to 97.5FM WBBA Radio on the first Monday of every month at 9am to hear PCEDC on the Spotlight Show!

Find us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter!



Who: This course is for owners, managers and employees of small and medium-sized businesses

Cost: \$25 per person

When: April 28 from 6-9 pm at the Pike County Farm Bureau in Pittsfield.

Preparing your business for a disaster can help save lives, merchandise and money. That's why U of I Extension and Pike County Chamber of Commerce are offering a disaster preparedness course for businesses called Ready Business.

After taking part in this training, participants will:

- Understand the need for business continuity and disaster preparedness planning
- Know the concepts of business continuity and disaster preparedness planning
- Discover their disaster risks
- Begin writing their individual disaster plans

Register online by April 21 at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/abhps/>

Contact Shelby Crow at sschoon@illinois.edu or 217-223-8380 with any questions regarding this program.



This course was developed through the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). To learn about EDEN, go to www.EDEN.lsu.edu.



PCEDC ANNUAL MEETING 2016



Owen Brown, owner of GFC Manufacturing, describes the process involved with one of the many state of the art pieces of equipment they use to manufacture the Bale Bandit.

Demonstrations were provided of their laser using 6,000 watts of laser cutting power to rapidly cut very complex and high quality parts. Other demonstrations included the press brake, where 258 tons of power goes to work with the graphical touch screen control, making short work of many complex parts.

WORKFORCE READY!

If you happen to see someone with this t-shirt, you are in the presence of a Workforce Readiness Certificate awardee! The WRC Program is in its second year with 56 participants in all four school districts. The program provides recognition and endorsement of those students who have successfully

met the criteria required to earn a "Workforce Readiness" Certificate. Data, both quantitative & qualitative, including attendance, disciplinary record and soft skills is collected on students throughout the year. Businesses recognize the certificate as an endorsement by Pike County Schools that the student is ready to successfully enter the workforce. The certificate gives students a head start in the market place and serves as a stamp of approval when the student is applying to a college or for a job. Your support is critical to encourage the students

that this achievement is important and carries strength. Many businesses throughout the county have committed to supporting this program. Our students must be armed with the skills they need for employment. We thank you for your support of the Workforce Readiness Program, and we look forward to joining together as a community to make our students more prepared for their future.



JWCC ANNOUNCES PLAN TO RELOCATE

In response to community and advisory council feedback, John Wood Community College Trustees will consider a lease proposal during their April 20 board meeting for a new facility to expand offerings and better serve the Southeastern portion of its district. The Southeastern portion of JWCC's district includes Pike County and portions of Calhoun, Scott, Morgan and Cass counties.

If approved by Trustees and the Illinois Community College Board, the proposed lease will be for the former JDL building adjacent to the Pittsfield Industrial Park.

The new facility, which will be named the JWCC Southeast Education Center, includes 9,700 square feet on the main level and includes additional amenities not currently available in the College's existing center.

In addition to classrooms and offices, the center will include a space for community special events and training, a cyber café area for public use connected to fiber optic high-speed internet, and upgraded laboratory space for certified nursing assistant and pre-requisite nursing courses. Another 8,700 square foot of space on the second level of the building will be available for future expansion.

Trustees feel the new lease arrangement is the best use of dollars currently allocated for a facility and an investment in the future education of residents in the communities of the Southeastern portion of JWCC's district.

"The college is committed to this area and this facility is the result of an extensive search," JWCC Board of Trustee Chair Jim Gay said. "We want to use our existing resources wisely and invest in future enrollment growth in this area by upgrading the facility in which we deliver enhanced educational programs and services. A working college-community partnership will be key for this facility's long-term success."

In addition to an upgraded facility, the College has expanded programs and services in the last year based on key recommendations from community members and JWCC Southeast Advisory Council. These include free college readiness courses in math at the area's high schools, expanded Smart Start concurrent enrollment course offerings and scholarships to help high school students earn college credit, new JDub Academy for 3rd through 6th graders, expanded community based outreach personal enrichment courses, career exploration services, customized training conversations with area businesses and workforce training classes.

JWCC plans to move operations from its current location at 1308 W. Washington in Pittsfield to the new facility in the fall of 2017.