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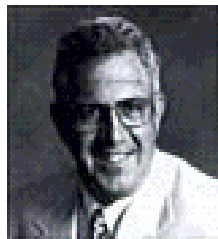
LaSalle County Farm Supply

Commissioners

Dale Baxter
Wayne Eichelkraut
William Walsh
Edward Whitney

Chamber Executive Director

Boyd Palmer



As we move into the New Year, the Chamber and the Economic Development Task Force will both be "Focusing on Progress"- this years Chamber theme. The City/Chamber partnership has been working diligently on design and infrastructure for: the Super Wal-Mart retail complex, PetsMart, Pilkington, a Hi-Tech Manufacturer and the Convention Center. In addition to these economic development projects are the planning and design reviews for the many new subdivision projects coming to Ottawa.

Working first hand on these projects, I want the public to be aware of the incredible staff the City has devoting themselves to these tasks and the support the Chamber staff provides when asked.

— Boyd Palmer

The Task Force did not meet in December, but at its January meeting heard presentations from: Cory Jobe, Program Director, Economic Development Loan Programs, Office of the Treasurer; and, Norman Kelewitz, Labor Market Analyst, Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Mr. Jobe detailed the Treasurer's "Link Deposit Program" and how the City may be able to use it for the Pilkington project infrastructure work.

Mr. Kelewitz detailed his departments "One Source Workforce & Career Information" web site that provides a portal to five web sites that deliver workforce information the way we need it. Go to www.ilworkinfo.com.

2005 Chamber Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

- Tuesday, March 8—Business After Hours
- Tuesday, March 29—Legislative Lunch
- Wednesday, May 4—Business After Hours
- Wednesday, May 18—Annual Dinner
- Wednesday, July 27—Welcomeburger
- Wednesday, Sept. 7—Business After Hours
- Thursday, Sept. 15—Golf & Tennis Outing
- Wednesday, Oct. 12—Business After Hours
- Tuesday, October 25—State of the City

Look for more information soon!

"Breakfasts with Dave," (City Engineer) continue to be very beneficial. At two recent meetings Jim Malley, Ottawa Daily Times, and Jock Brown, First National Bank were our guests. The purpose is to have them meet and become acquainted with Dave and to get an outside perspective from them of how we are doing our job and what they see as problems and possible solutions.

On May 12, 2005 the State's Northwest Region is sponsoring a "Reverse Trade Mission" which will give us a unique opportunity to showcase Ottawa to foreign trade commissioners from over 30 countries.

The foreign trade commissioners are already stationed in Chicago and deal directly with foreign countries seeking a US business partner or wanting to create a US subsidiary.

The "RTM" brings them to our region and lets them learn first hand about the suitability of our area as a location for a foreign manufacturing plant, warehouse or sales center.

On March 29th Dave Noble, the Mayor and myself will be part of a local financial institution seminar for area residential and commercial developers and real estate agents. We will give an overview of Ottawa's zoning, annexation, permitting and infrastructure as well as what's happening growth-wise to help them in their decision-making process.

Have a few minutes?

Check out the following websites of interest that were provided by the Illinois chamber:

- *Survey Monkey – www.surveymonkey.com Online way to survey
- *Illinois Coalition for Jobs, Growth & Prosperity: www.jobsillinois.com
- *IACCE blog: www.IACCE.org/blog.php