

ED Task Force Members

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IV Labor Management

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Mayor, City of Ottawa

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Don Harris

First National Bank

Dave Harvey

IDES

Van Jackson

Old Second Bank Ottawa

Tom Jobst

Ottawa High School

Steve King

Fairmount Minerals Wedron

Colt Landreth

Plaza Property Advisors

Dave Noble

City Engineer, City of Ottawa

Ron Spandet

Marquette High School

John Stone

Hydromat

Andy Wagner

LaSalle County Farm Supply

Steve Warren

Ameren IP

Commissioners

Dale Baxter

Wayne Eichelkraut

William Walsh

Edward Whitney

Chamber Executive Director

Boyd Palmer



"Thanks again for your hospitality. It is great to experience this kind of welcome in a new place. This definitely makes the transition a lot more enjoyable for me and I am really looking forward to being part of this community and its vision." —Justin Bellsmith, General Manager, PETS MART

Though too little of these comments make the news, it is evident that the ongoing efforts of the Chamber and the City pay off. While the public is sometimes frustrated by timelines, they must be patient as we work through the myriad of issues that need to be resolved when dealing with an industrial/commercial or residential development.—Boyd Palmer

The Economic Development Task Force did not meet in April. However, at its March meeting representatives from the Iron Workers and Illinois Contractors gave an excellent presentation on the Union's academic programs and training for those students not on a college track. Task force member, Tom Jobst, Superintendent of Ottawa Township High School, detailed the new "Integrated Math Program" they have instituted.

In May, the Task Force was informed of the Chairman's auspicious meeting with the Foreign Trade Commissioners in Moline. As a result of meeting with Mr. Ross Harano, Managing Director, Office of Trade and Investment, and Liang Gang, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, we were able to have Colt Landreth, Ottawa's representative for our Industrial Park, meet with them in Chicago. The initial result of this contact is starting the process of having our Industrial Park designated as a "Foreign Trade Zone" and the setting up of a meeting with the China representative in June to discuss our Industrial Park. We have also planned for an Ottawa delegation to go to Chicago and present our city to all 30 Commissioners.

The highlight of the May meeting was a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Ottawa's newest distribution center, **PETS MART**, and then a tour of this amazing facility. Due to open in July, it is a must-see for everyone. They will be offering tours during their grand opening--be sure to check out the 50,000 gallon aquarium out of which they will ship 300,000 to 500,000 fish a week to their stores all over the country!

The mayor, the city engineer and I made two economic development presentations this past month. One was made to over 40 residential, commercial and real estate agents at Old Second Bank's "2005 Builder/Developer/Realtor Economic Development Breakfast" and the other was made to 26 business students and their professors from Olivet Nazarene University.

The LaSalle County Development Connection, a collaboration of five economic development organizations in LaSalle County, has completed their website, www.lcdconline.org. This site will offer the inquirer a list of all available sites in LaSalle County. The Chamber is in the process of compiling all of Ottawa's existing sites to put online.

We continue to field calls from developers. There is significant interest in the K-Mart building and positive things are happening with Super Wal-Mart and the Downtown Resort complex. I know you've heard it before, but keep the faith!

2005 Chamber Upcoming Events

Save the Date!

Wednesday, June 29— Business After Hours

Wednesday, July 27—Welcomeburger

Tuesday, August 30—Business After Hours

Wednesday, Sept. 7—Business After Hours

Thursday, Sept. 15—Golf & Tennis Outing

Wednesday, Sept. 28—Business After Hours

Wednesday, Oct. 12—Business After Hours

Tuesday, October 25—State of the City

Tuesday, Nov. 22—Business After Hours

We have some updated information on our website,

www.ottawachamberillinois.com

Check it out!

***Look for more information on
educational programs soon!***