

# ED UPDATE a monthly news source of the OAC Economic Development Task Force



The weather outside may be getting colder, but Economic Development activities continue to heat up for our community. As the Chamber, City and Plaza Property Advisors (Colt Landreth) continue progressing on ongoing projects (Pilkington, PetsMart, Hi-Tech Mfg in the Industrial Park, the Convention Center, Case International), we are also working together with new prospects. It's a tribute to the aforementioned Partnership, the community, organizations, volunteers, and local economic developers that have put Ottawa on the radar screen of so many companies and commercial, industrial and residential developers.

— Boyd Palmer

## ED Task Force Members

### Bernard Anderson

Nicor Gas

### Dan Aussem

IV Labor Management

### Walter Breipohl

Kaszynski Breipohl

### Tom Duttlinger

Etscheid Duttlinger & Associates

### Robert Eschbach

Mayor, City of Ottawa

### William Franklin

Pam Furlan

BEST

### Jamie Gahm

IVCC

### John Grieves

Grieves Construction

### 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

### Colby Sawin

AmerenIP

### Ron Spandet

Marquette High School

### John Stone

Hydromat

### Andy Wagner

LaSalle County Farm Supply

### Commissioners

Dale Baxter

Wayne Eichelkraut

William Walsh

Edward Whitney

### Chamber Executive Director

Boyd Palmer

The weekly breakfasts with City Engineer, Dave Noble continue to reap benefits for both of us. They have recently resulted in having Dave lead a brainstorming session with our Economic Development Task Force. Items discussed were Enterprise and TIF Zones and their impact on real estate taxes and schools, available grants, and how Ottawa handles growth outside our city limits. In addition, Dave and I felt we needed to take a closer look at our enterprise zones and clarify the language in both the old EZ which terminates in June 2006 and the new EZ which begins in 2006 and ends in 2016.

Mr. Noble and I attended a one day training seminar on the State of Illinois's "Location One Information System" (LOIS) at Western Illinois University. Location One is a tool for Illinois Communities to use to market their communities to potential businesses. It provides site selectors with state, regional, and local community profiles compliant with National Data Standards in one convenient package.

## Watch for specific dates of all 2005

### Chamber sponsored events!

March—Legislative Lunch

May—Annual Dinner

July—Welcomeburger

September—OAC Golf Outing

Fall—State of the City

Look for more information soon!

The Economic Development Task Force has added 3 new members to its team. The addition of Mr. Andy Wagner, General Manager LaSalle County Farm Supply, Tom Jobst, Ottawa High School, and Ron Spandet, Marquette High School adds 2 vital areas of concern to our industrial prospects—agriculture and education.

The Mayor, Dave Noble and I met with Mr. Michael S. Kearney, Manager AmerenIP Economic Development. He was joined by Jill Hartsock and Steve Warren — longtime Illinois Power Economic Development Specialists. They were briefed on all of our projects and the crucial need for additional power for these projects. They assured us those needs would be met and that they would work with us like the former Illinois Power did in the past!

A member of our Task force, John Stone, is going to head a team to begin planning for the "beautification of the Rt. 23/80 entrance", one of the top 10 items of the October Town Meeting.

Who are the new industrial prospects? Confidentiality prohibits me from naming them, but there are 5 new active projects we are working with...stay tuned.

## Want to be more impressed than last time?

Look at me now says PetsMart!

**Did you know that in 2003 Ottawa had 71 new home permits, 27 commercial projects and 88 miscellaneous building projects for an estimated total value of \$18,479,300? Can't wait for 2004 numbers!**