

# Teamwork key to landing Ferrara complex

In a joint press release Jan. 31, the city of DeKalb and Ferrara Candy Co., an emerging powerhouse in the North American confections and sweet snacking categories, announced the company committed to 106 acres in the center of the ChicagoWest Business Park. Construction on the 1.6 million-square-foot distribution complex will begin immediately.

"This new distribution complex represents growth not only for Ferrara, but the city of DeKalb," said Mike Murray, Ferrara's chief operating officer. "This is an exciting time for our company. As our business continues to grow and our portfolio expands, we need additional space to match our ambition. The distribution capacity in DeKalb will allow us to continue to scale our network in the U.S."

DeKalb Mayor Jerry Smith pointed out that the expected corporate investment in facilities and permanent jobs in DeKalb will give "a much-desired boost to the local economy and provide new reasons for families to settle in DeKalb. Ferrara brings a reputation for beloved brands and high-quality products, along with solid career opportunities to our community. We are very excited they chose DeKalb."

Ferrara's new distribution complex



## DCEDC VIEW

Paul Borek

is expected to be fully operational in the second quarter of 2021 and will bring about 500 jobs to the city.

On behalf of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation, we are thrilled with Ferrara's selection of the city of DeKalb and DeKalb County for this new packaging and distribution complex. DeKalb was a finalist for the company's interest because of its utility infrastructure, its proximity to Interstate 88, its workforce and its business-friendly taxing bodies.

Abundant utility capacity from ComEd, Nicor Gas Co., the city of DeKalb and the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District, and congestion-free access to the Midwest transportation network are essential to large-scale industrial development and national distribution operations.

The DCEDC and the city administration worked closely with ChicagoWest Business Center, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and state Reps. Tom

Demmer, R-Dixon, and Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, to secure state and local incentives through the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone to attract Ferrara.

Bill Nicklas, DeKalb city manager, was very gratified by DeKalb's selection. "The projected investment of more than \$100 million by Ferrara in the city of DeKalb affirms the wisdom of our community's commitment to thoughtful business incentives, advanced water and sewer infrastructure, a trained workforce and the power of our two institutions of higher learning, Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee College." Nicklas is optimistic that Ferrara's investment will spur other high-quality corporate interest in the city of DeKalb in the coming years.

DeKalb County's sizable labor market extending throughout northern Illinois supports the development of new business operations and creates the opportunity to attract employees to live in our rich, dynamic communities.

The DCEDC commends the city of DeKalb and DeKalb taxing bodies for expediting development and delivering prudent incentives that will expand the city's economy for years to come. Partnering taxing bodies joining

the city of DeKalb were DeKalb School District 428, DeKalb County Government, DeKalb County Forest Preserve District, DeKalb Park District, DeKalb Public Library, DeKalb Township, DeKalb Township Road District, Kishwaukee College District 523 and Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District.

Likewise, DeKalb County and the communities and taxing bodies that participate in the DeKalb County Enterprise Zone are to be commended. The presence of an Enterprise Zone is critical to attracting major development projects.

Finally, developer Trammell Crow Co. and general contractor Krusinski Construction Co.'s diligent and resourceful investment in making the ChicagoWest Business Center "shovel ready" for mega developments like the Ferrara Candy Co. were crucial in attracting Ferrara's commitment to the DeKalb County economy.

CBRE served as Ferrara's real estate broker.

Information about the DCEDC and future projects can be found at [www.dcedc.org](http://www.dcedc.org).

*• Paul Borek is executive director of the DeKalb County Economic Development Corp.*

## BRIEFS

### Schwartz named treasurer of Realtor association board

DeKALB - Aaron Schwartz of Weichert, Realtors - Signature Professionals has been named treasurer of the Hometown Association of Realtors board of directors.

Schwartz is a top-producing agent at the Weichert affiliate, located in DeKalb and Rochelle.

Schwartz was installed as board treasurer during the association's October board meeting. His term runs through 2020.

Schwartz obtained his real estate license in 2014, the year he began working at Weichert, Realtors - Signature Professionals. He will continue at the Weichert affiliate, where he has garnered recognition for his sales productions, while assuming his new leadership position.

Schwartz lives in DeKalb.

Weichert, Realtors - Signature Professionals is an independently owned and operated Weichert affiliate. For information, call Carrie Ottum at 815-754-5050



Aaron Schwartz

or visit [www.signaturerealestatepro.com](http://www.signaturerealestatepro.com).

### Northern Rehab therapists complete training

Brandon Clement and Aaron Nevdal, physical therapists at Northern Rehab Physical Therapy Specialists in DeKalb and Rochelle, recently completed a continuing education course for blood flow restriction training by BFR Pros in Rockford.

Blood flow restriction training is an exercise adjunct to enable patients to make greater strength gains while lifting lighter loads. The treatment works by applying an external pressure similar to a blood pressure cuff, which reduces venous outflow, causing muscles to use oxygen faster and fatigue quickly. This method can produce



Brandon Clement



Aaron Nevdal

increases in strength without having to lift heavy weights, which can be painful or difficult.

Both Clement and Nevdal are accepting new patients at the DeKalb location at 3266 Sycamore Road. Additionally, Nevdal is accepting new patients in the Rochelle clinic at 1211 Currency Court. To schedule an appointment or for information, call 815-756-8524 (DeKalb) or 815-562-3299 (Rochelle) or visit [www.northernrehabpt.com](http://www.northernrehabpt.com).

### Faivre named market leader for Heartland Bank

DeKALB COUNTY - Landon Faivre has been named senior vice president and market leader for the northern region at Heartland Bank and Trust Co.

Faivre is leading relationship management and business development efforts for the business lending team in the Sycamore, DeKalb, Genoa, Huntley, Hampshire, Antioch and Gurnee communities. He is at the bank's 1985 DeKalb Ave. branch in Sycamore.

With nearly 20 years of experience as a lender in DeKalb County, Faivre has established relationships and provided business growth support in agricultural

and commercial lending.

With a bachelor's degree in farm and financial management from the University of Illinois and an MBA from Northern Illinois University, Faivre began his banking career as a credit analyst in 2000. His educational background, along with his agribusiness upbringing, translated into his position as an agribusiness lender and finally senior lender.

Raised on a Christmas tree and grain farm, he continues to work a portion of his own land to stay current on agricultural trends and markets.

Faivre serves on the Opportunity House Board of Directors, DeKalb County Farm Bureau Foundation Board, and as treasurer for the Afton-Union Drainage District. A DeKalb native, Faivre makes his home in Sugar Grove with his wife, Colleen, and two children, Ansley and Corinne.

Headquartered in Bloomington, Heartland Bank and Trust Co. is a community bank with assets of \$3 billion.



Landon Faivre

*- Daily Chronicle*