

Input needed for economic injury disaster declaration

As small businesses and nonprofits are impacted by social distancing to keep employees, customers and themselves healthy, the U.S. Small Business Administration has been authorized to “work directly with state governors to provide targeted, low-interest loans to small businesses and nonprofits that have been severely impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).”

“The SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing,” according to the SBA website.

To secure access to resources for small businesses throughout the state of Illinois, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is collecting information and data to use in requesting an economic injury disaster declaration from the SBA.

To assist DCEO with this disaster declaration request, small businesses and nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 are encouraged to complete a form available at www.dcedc.org.



DCEDC VIEW

Paul Borek

Responses to the questions will assist in evaluating a request for an economic injury disaster declaration.

Once a declaration is made for designated areas within a state, information on the application process for Economic Injury Disaster Loan program assistance will be made available to all affected communities, businesses and nonprofits.

According to the SBA website, “these loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that can’t be paid because of the disaster’s impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses without credit available elsewhere; businesses with credit available elsewhere are not eligible. The interest rate for nonprofits is 2.75%.”

ComEd taking steps to support customers

ComEd has announced plans to help customers by “suspending service disconnects and providing resources and payment accommoda-

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tions for those who may have challenges paying their monthly energy bill.”

According to a ComEd news release, the electric utility is providing “payment assistance programs and imposing a moratorium on service disconnections and waiving new late payment charges through at least May 1. This action is being taken as many businesses and institutions are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by taking temporary measures to shut down or limit operations to control the spread of COVID-19.”

ComEd is also taking steps to increase “awareness of the programs

in place to help customers through temporary or extended financial hardship and will be working with customers on a case-by-case basis to establish payment arrangements and identify energy assistance options.

For information, visit ComEd.com/CARE or call 800-334-7661.

DCEDC Workforce Development Workshop postponed

DCEDC’s Workforce Development Workshop, designed to help ensure that DeKalb County has a talent pipeline that meets the needs of employers and workers, has been postponed in keeping with the recommendations of the CDC.

Workforce recruiting and assistance contacts and information prepared for the workshop will be posted on the DCEDC website at www.dcedc.org/workforce/ during the coming weeks.

In addition, as further business information regarding the COVID-19 becomes available, it will be posted on the DCEDC website.

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

Voluntary Action Center celebrates 45 years of service to the community



Photo provided

DeKalb and Genoa Chamber of Commerce board members, ambassadors and staff, along with community members, recently congratulated Voluntary Action Center on 45 years of service to the community. Voluntary Action Center is committed to providing high-quality services that address the basic transportation and nutrition needs of members of the community. VAC was incorporated in 1974, and has grown to serve five counties. VAC is at 1660 Bethany Road in Sycamore. Learn about receiving services or volunteering opportunities at vacdk.com or by calling 815-758-3932.

Sycamore Chamber of Commerce welcomes KEEP.Clean Laundry



Photo provided

On March 3, the Sycamore Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting for KEEP.Clean Laundry, 403 E. State St. in Sycamore. The new laundry facility features O-Zone cleaning water and machines that run on loyalty cards, Apple pay and credit cards. No coins needed. For information, call 331-235-0725 or visit keepcleanlaundry.com.