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975 million reasons to contribute to DCEDC



GUEST COLUMN

Paul
Borek

The DeKalb County Economic Development Corp. expresses sincere appreciation to its members for their past contributions. As a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation established in 1987, DCEDC has relied on the strong support of its private and public members to underwrite its efforts to expand the tax base, diversify the local economy, and create jobs for residents.

Last year, DCEDC was able to celebrate development successes while helping to support members through the challenges of the global pandemic. Member investment in DCEDC contributed to the attraction of record-breaking new business development that is transforming the DeKalb County economy. In addition, DCEDC partnered in the DeKalb County UNITES initiative with Northern Illinois University and county business leaders to provide technical assistance and problem-solving webinars, as well as encourage local purchasing, to support small businesses.

Investment of \$975 million in the construction of over 3 million square feet of buildings began in 2020. Projects included the hyper-scale Facebook data center campus and the Ferrara Candy Company packaging and distribution complex in DeKalb, and the Syngenta agricultural research and development center in Malta. These projects will

diversify our economy by adding innovative and fast-growing sectors to our business community.

Numerous other industrial, commercial, mixed-use and public projects were developed throughout DeKalb County. These include Agora Tower, B & C Logistics, DeKalb City Hall, Egyptian Theatre, El Jimador, Home2 Suites, Isaac Executive Suites, K & M Tire, Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District, Lincoln Inn, Mason Indoor Golf USA, Pizza Hut, Raising Cane's, Safe Passage, and Wehrli Custom Fabrication in DeKalb; Ignatius Press, Innovative Growers Equipment, Meijer, Nicor Gas, and The Suter Co. in Sycamore; Conserv FS in Waterman; Resource Bank in Kirkland; and IBEW and Open Door Coffee in Genoa.

To leverage these recent successes, DCEDC is dedicated to building for the future alongside our local businesses, institutions and governmental bodies. At this time, DCEDC asks members to be generous in supporting its annual operating campaign. In addition, we invite new businesses and others to invest in DCEDC for the first time. To contribute to DCEDC, visit <https://dcedc.org/membership-registration/> or contact Karen Hoyle at hoyle@dcedc.org or 815-895-2711.

This year, we are pleased to introduce the Opportunity Unbound branding and communications program. Opportunity Unbound is a community-wide celebration of all that DeKalb County has to offer. The purpose of this unique program is to promote DeKalb County around the world to accelerate business development, job creation and talent

attraction.

Increased business development will produce new EAV (Equalized Assessment Value) that will expand the current tax base – thereby reducing the real estate tax burden for individual DeKalb County property owners – something everyone would value!

Over the next few months, DCEDC will be conducting outreach to businesses, community leaders and to individuals throughout the county to generate awareness of the Opportunity Unbound branding program and to secure input from stakeholders. Once we secure valuable feedback, we will finalize the Opportunity Unbound three-year plan and kick off the supplemental fundraising campaign to fund the branding and communications campaign.

To learn more about Opportunity Unbound, view the Sneak Peek video on our website, www.dcedc.org. We welcome your observations and questions about this important initiative. Call Paul Borek, DCEDC executive director, at borek@dcedc.org or 815-895-2711 with your feedback.

We know that current times are challenging with COVID restrictions and impacts; however, the ability of Opportunity Unbound to fast-track business and community development will result in economic expansion, population growth, and lower taxes contributing to an enhanced quality of life for all.

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

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CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Daily Chronicle, and we want to correct mistakes promptly. Please call errors to our attention by phone, 815-526-4565; email, news@daily-chronicle.com.

ON THE COVER

Doug and Pat Schertz have a chat on the deck of their home Thursday in DeKalb. The couple has had to find ways to keep occupied while being stuck at home.
See story on page 3.

Photo by Mark Busch - mbsusch@shawmedia.com

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