

# UNEXPECTED kenosha

Quarterly Newsletter of the Kenosha Area Business Alliance(KABA) | Summer 2015

## After moving its production operations to Pleasant Prairie, FNA Group to relocate it's corporate HQs here as well

Six months after announcing plans to bring more than 100 jobs to Kenosha County, the FNA Group Inc. recently announced that it also will relocate its corporate headquarters from Illinois to Pleasant Prairie.

FNA, which manufactures pressure washers for home and industrial markets, is moving from Elk Grove Village in suburban Chicago to its new \$3 million facility at the LakeView Corporate Park.

"I would like to welcome FNA to Wisconsin, and I applaud the company for once again showing its commitment to growing in the state," said Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, who joined company and local officials at a ribbon-cutting on May 11. "Just last week, a national survey of CEOs ranked Wisconsin as the 12th best state in the nation to do business - and we've seen a big jump in the rankings over the last four years. That's a clear sign that company executives all over the country are becoming more aware that Wisconsin is a great place in which to start or grow a business."

In December, FNA announced it was locating part of its OEM Industries Division operations, which manufactures hoses and distributes pumps and replacement parts, from Arkansas to Pleasant Prairie. The company selected Wisconsin after taking part in a site selection process that involved numerous states. The new facility, which opened earlier this year, is expected to create at least 165 new jobs.

In addition to housing the company's corporate offices, the 176,000-square-foot facility will enable FNA to manufacture new products, accommodate demand for existing products, and establish an R&D/engineering/product development center.

To support the company's move and the creation of new jobs, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has authorized FNA to receive up to \$700,000 in state tax credits. The actual amount of credits awarded will be contingent upon the number of jobs created.

"All of us at FNA Group are impressed by the manner in which state and local officials worked independently and together from day one. They did everything within their power to help us solve our challenges. And we are all extremely proud to call Pleasant Prairie our new home."

— Gus Alexander  
President & CEO, FNA Group

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KABA is the lead business organization that drives economic development throughout Kenosha County and supports and provides services to its members and the community, helping to ensure growth, a robust economy, and a positive business climate for the



The FNA Group is a vertically integrated manufacturer of brand name and private label electric and gas pressure washers, pumps, hoses and replacement parts. They have relocated their HQs and much of their production from Elk Grove Village, IL to Pleasant Prairie.

## Inside...

- > Kenall launches innovative new product
- > Wisconsin earns 'Silver Shovel' award
- > Don't miss Inspire Kenosha!

Unexpected Kenosha (formerly Directions) is published quarterly by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, Inc. (KABA). Archives can be found on our web site:

[www.kaba.org](http://www.kaba.org)

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with us  
online!



@kabaconnectthere

## FROM THE CHAIR

My grandparents are heroes to me, although I never really knew them. They believed in the American dream, and took an enormous, incredible risk to hop on a boat and head for Ellis Island. They heard the steel mills in Pittsburgh were hiring. They didn't know the language. They had limited education. But they bought into the dream, and for that I am forever grateful.

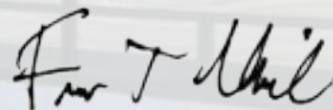
I've been thinking about them a lot lately, as I think about economic development in Kenosha County. We've been doing a fantastic job of attracting and retaining business here in Kenosha. We should all be very proud of the numerous accomplishments. This success clearly creates new challenges.

- > Do we have a highly skilled, properly trained workforce that will be able to meet the growing employment needs of area businesses?
- > Are we working in unison, as a community, to bridge the gaps between the skills of potential employees and the needs of area employers? This is where I picture my grandparents, many years ago, working through programs to learn English, and learn trade skills that allowed them to work in the mills.
- > Are we working closely together among the business and educational communities? We've got some great area educational resources, in Gateway, Parkside and Carthage. Are we, as business and community leaders, properly communicating our hiring needs, both for today and in the future? I am glad that KABA is taking steps to conduct a robust labor market study for Kenosha.

We in Kenosha are very resilient and resourceful, as our recovery from events such as the Chrysler plant shutdown clearly demonstrates. We at KABA are excited to work with you in working through these labor challenges, well before they begin to become an issue.

Also, in thinking about our many successes over the last few years, I'd like to thank, on behalf of KABA, Kenosha Mayor Keith Bosman. Mayor, you have been awesome to work with, and the community has thrived under your leadership. Job well done. Enjoy your retirement.

Sincerely,



Frank Unick,  
Chair,  
Kenosha Area Business Alliance



## Thank you for investing in KABA!

### BUSINESS HEALTH CARE GROUP

A membership organization of large and small employers that support a market-driven health care delivery system in southeast Wisconsin.

### CLEAN & GREEN

Professional, eco-friendly green cleaning service for commercial, office and residential.

### COPY CENTER

Downtown based print provider of color copies, offset printing, laminations & fax service.

### EJOT FASTENING SYSTEMS LP

For commercial, industrial, agricultural and domestic rooftop PV installations on wood and steel substructures.

### FESTIVAL FOODS

Private, family owned grocery company operating stores throughout Wisconsin.

### KEMPER CENTER

Facilities include banquet halls, reception and chapel meeting rooms and the Anderson Arts Center which feature event and festivals throughout the year.

### LEEWARD BUSINESS ADVISORS

IT consultants providing enterprise-grade solutions, business advisory services and more.

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## Upcoming events

### Inspire Kenosha (f/k/a Leadercast)

**Date:** Wednesday, August 5, 2015

**Time:** 7:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Uline, 12575 Uline Drive, Pleasant Prairie

**Cost:** \$90 for KABA members; \$125 for non-members

Join KABA for an inspirational day focused on how to become a leader worth following.

Whether you're a C-level executive or transitioning into a leadership role, Inspire Kenosha is a must-attend leadership development event designed to help build your capacity to be great as a leader.

Read more about this event on page 9.

### Economic and Market Update

**Date:** Wednesday, October 7, 2015

**Time:** 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

*Additional details and registration information will be available soon.*

Scott Wren, Senior Global Equity Strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors, will provide an analysis and outlook for the global economy going into 2016, including the housing market, employment, trade and fixed income information.



Scott will also give an update on current stock market action and trends and what it may mean for investors. He will make himself available for questions, time permitting.

Presented by The Fitzpatrick Group of Wells Fargo Advisors; a non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company, one of the nation's largest financial institutions.

## Thank you for investing in KABA!

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### TIME WARNER CABLE BUSINESS CLASS

Offers business services and business communications tools to small- and medium-sized businesses and enterprises.

### TOOLAMATION

Specializes in broaching and screw machine tool manufacturing, as well as CNC machining fabrication and engineering solutions.

### Kenosha County Business Excellence Awards

**Date:** Thursday, November 5, 2015

**Location:** UW-Parkside Student Center Ballroom

*Additional details and registration information will be available soon.*

The 2015 Kenosha County Business Excellence Awards recognize excellence and achievement in business throughout Kenosha County. KABA hosts the annual dinner event in collaboration with the Kenosha Area Chamber of Commerce.

*The 2014 Business Excellence Award winners are pictured below.*



Know a great business? Or maybe you are a great business? Nominations are now open for the 2015 Business Excellence Awards!

We encourage you to apply or nominate your colleagues, customers and business partners for these prestigious recognitions.

More information is available at: [bit.ly/2015\\_BE\\_noms](http://bit.ly/2015_BE_noms)

All nominations must be submitted by July 24, 2015.

The 2015 Kenosha County Business Excellence Awards recognize excellence and achievement in business throughout Kenosha County.

Nominations close July 24, 2015.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Kenall Manufacturing launches an innovative new product: Indigo-Clean

Kenall Manufacturing recently introduced a ground breaking new light fixture that uses Continuous Environmental Disinfection technology to continuously kill harmful bacteria linked to hospital acquired infections (HAIs). Indigo-Clean™ inactivates a wide range of micro-organisms that are known causes of HAIs.

Researchers at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland developed, proved and patented the technology and chose Kenall to produce the product commercially through an exclusive licensing agreement.

"We have spent more than 13 years researching and developing HINS-light technology for the purpose of reducing the environmental transmission of pathogens and ultimately reducing HAI in the healthcare setting," said Scott MacGregor, Ph.D., ROLEST founder/co-director and Vice-Principal of Strathclyde. "We chose



Kenall because of its extensive experience in providing lighting for the most challenging healthcare environments where infection prevention is a key consideration."

Indigo-Clean™ was unveiled just before the annual meeting of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) in Nashville. It uses a

narrow spectrum of visible indigo-colored light at an output of 405 nanometers (nm) on the light spectrum. This High-Intensity Narrow Spectrum (HINS) light is absorbed by molecules within bacteria, producing a chemical reaction that kills the bacteria from the inside.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports around 1 in 25 hospital patients in the US have at least one infection contracted in the health care setting. The CDC estimates HAIs cause at least 1.7 million illnesses and 99,000 deaths in acute care hospitals in the U.S. and add \$35-45 billion in excess health care costs each year. The ability of Indigo-Clean™ to continuously treat the air as well as hard and soft surfaces, provides a significant boost to cleaning and disinfecting efforts. Unlike high-tech systems that clean only when they are activated by a trained operator, Indigo-Clean™ is automatic and continuous.

"As an innovator in healthcare lighting and a leader in LED lighting and controls, we can bring healthcare providers this effective, game-changing tool to ensure the safest and best environment for their patients," said Kenall CEO Jim Hawkins.

Kenall, which completed a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Kenosha County in late 2014, is poised to start commercial production of the technology immediately.

## Unexpected Kenosha Case Study: Niagara Bottling

**Company:** Family owned and operated since 1963, Niagara Bottling is the largest private-label bottled water supplier in the U.S. The Ontario, Calif.-headquartered company got its start producing water in five-gallon glass bottles for commercial clients and in the early 1990s expanded operations to single-serve bottles.

**Project:** After a multi-state search, Niagara selected Pleasant Prairie in Kenosha County for the site of its 19th processing plant. They officially opened the 377,472 square-foot high tech manufacturing plant in April. Niagara's \$75 million facility is it's fastest and most highly automated. It features laser-guided vehicles that run most warehouse operations and machines that can produce 5.5 million bottles in a 24-hour period. It currently employs 88.



**Field to first bottle:** Niagara Bottling went from a shovel-ready site to rolling its first bottle off the line in just 233 days. President and CEO Andy Peykoff II praised the process as well as the new facility's strategic location and the responsiveness of the community at its recent grand opening event (pictured below). Plant Director Paul Schrock talked about the incredible workforce he has been able to find in the area, saying he was very pleased with both the quantity and quality of candidates.



## KABA Member News & Notes

### Several companies named top workplaces

Congratulations to the following organizations for being named by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel as Top Workplaces in southeastern Wisconsin:

- > CCB Technology
- > Frontida
- > Gateway Technical College
- > Riley Construction
- > QPS Employment Services
- > Wipfli

### Aurora names new Market Sales Executive for Racine, Kenosha Areas

Sheri Johnson, a 27-year veteran in the health and insurance industry, has been named a Market Sales Executive with the Aurora Health Care Employer Solutions team. Johnson will work to help identify and deliver health-focused solutions to employers throughout SE WI/N IL. Solutions include occupational health, employee wellness programs, on-site and near-site clinics, executive physical programs and more.



### Clark Dietz adds to team

Keith Powell, P.E. has joined the Clark Dietz as a Senior Project Manager for the civil/environmental group. Keith brings 15 years of engineering consulting and design experience specializing in municipal and industrial wastewater treatment and stormwater management solutions.



### Jockey launches new line of casual footwear

Jockey International recently announced the launch of men's and women's casual footwear. They are partnering with internationally recognized footwear experts, The Eastman Group, to design, manufacture and market casual footwear, slippers, flip flops, and athleisure styles that deliver on Jockey's tradition of innovation.

### Landmark adds Chicago Title as an underwriter

Landmark Title Corporation of Kenosha has recently added Chicago Title as an underwriter to better serve its commercial and residential customers. As a member of the Fidelity National Financial (FNF) family of companies and the nations' largest title insurance group,

Chicago Title is a highly requested underwriter for large, commercial transactions.

### Mid-America Real Estate adds more area retail

Mid-America Real Estate-WI was instrumental in brokering The Shoppes of Prairie Ridge development in 2009. Phase II was recently launched with a 154,000 SF Costco Wholesale Club, which just celebrated their grand opening. The Phase II development also includes three separate parcels with multi-tenant retail buildings, along with a 10,150 SF Kwik Trip Convenience Store. Upon full build out, it will have over 600,000 SF of retail space.

### Riley Construction recognized

Riley Construction won two safety awards for 2014: A Safety Achievement Award from the Lake County Contractors Association for achieving an exemplary Safety Record in Division IV, and an award from the Associated General Contractors of Wisconsin for pursuing and achieving excellence in construction safety for 2014.

Riley was ranked #5 on the Milwaukee Business Journal's list of the Largest Milwaukee-Area Construction Firms, moving up from #6 last year.

## FNA Group to relocate it's corporate HQs, cont.

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KABA is providing the company with a \$1 million loan funded through a combination of revolving loan funds, including one that originated with a contribution from Pleasant Prairie's Tax Incremental Finance District #2.

Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser added: "We're excited about the investment the FNA Group has made in Pleasant Prairie and its decision to now relocate its headquarters here. We have been preparing for this announcement for years with the investments we've made in LakeView Corporate Park, our infrastructure and amenities as well as the steps we've taken to

make Kenosha County attractive to business. We are happy to see the results of these actions and welcome the FNA Group to the community."

The FNA Group is a vertically integrated manufacturer of brand name and private label electric and gas pressure washers, pumps, hoses and replacement parts.

FNA's brands are sold in major home-improvement retail chains across North America, including The Home Depot, Lowe's, Tractor Supply and Sam's Club.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Kenosha County sees an uptick in retail development

After a surge of new car dealerships in recent years, including Honda of Kenosha, Lynch Chevrolet of Kenosha and Kenosha Nissan, the grocery market is showing growth in Kenosha.

Meijer's recently held the grand opening of its Supercenter store at 7701 Green Bay Road in Kenosha. The store, and another in Grafton, are the first of a string of Meijer supercenters slated to open in Wisconsin.

The Grand Rapids, MI-based Meijer is planning to expand its presence in the Midwest, supported by its recent investment



in distribution operations in Pleasant Prairie. In 2013, it opened a 833,677-square-foot distribution center previously occupied by SuperValu.

Meijer has over 200 stores in five states and more than 60,000 employees. As a multi-billion dollar retailer, Meijer is ranked as the 19th largest privately held company in the country.

An 154,000-square foot Costco Wholesale Club also opened in June on 17 acres at the Shoppes of Prairie Ridge development, located just east of St. Catherine's Hospital in Pleasant Prairie. It is also planning stores in New Berlin and Menominee Falls.

Costco is headquartered in Issaquah, WA and has hundreds of stores throughout the United States with total sales in recent fiscal years exceeding \$64 billion.

*Pictured left: Pleasant Prairie Store Director Don Mettler; Meijer Co-Chairman of the Board & CEO Hank Meijer; Kenosha Mayor Keith Bosman; Meijer President J.K. Symancyk.*

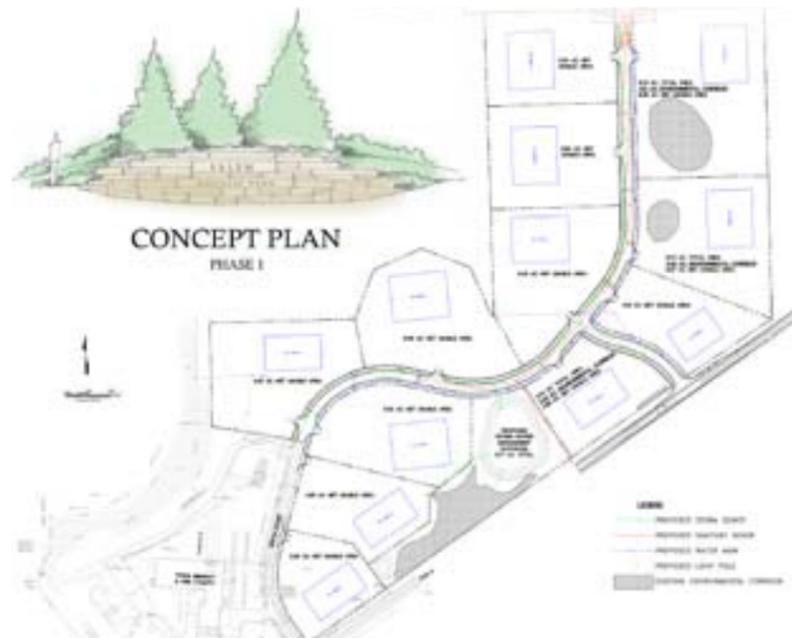
## Featured Property: Salem Business Park

For more information on this property or other available business sites, please visit [www.kenoshasites.com](http://www.kenoshasites.com).

KABA is excited to announce the development of a first-class business park in Western Kenosha County. The Salem Business Park - a partnership between KABA and the Town of Salem - will offer users sites of all sizes, ranging from two to ten or more acres. It has a great location just north of the Illinois border and will offer many amenities, including:

- > 65 developable acres
- > Flexible subdivision plan
- > TIF-supported development
- > Improved infrastructure: sewer, water, road, curb, gutter and grading
- > Great location: minutes to I-94 and to IL border, development is situated just west of Hwy 83 and north of County Hwy C
- > Park accommodates large and small users; manufacturers, assembly, warehouse, distributors
- > Incentives available for high impact developments
- > Competitive land prices
- > Protective/flexible covenants

For more information, please contact Heather Wessling at 262.605.3467 or [hwessling@kaba.org](mailto:hwessling@kaba.org).



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## New business accelerator program will be FaB

There are growing demands on the food and beverage industry to innovate and meet evolving consumer interests, from specialty food and beverage products to those considered cleaner or fresher. FaB (Food and Beverage) Wisconsin has worked in collaboration with the Food Finance Institute at the University of Wisconsin Extension and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), to bring Wisconsin's food and beverage industry a much needed food finance accelerator: FaBcap.

Businesses selected to participate must be Wisconsin-based and generating revenue in food, beverage, ingredients, equipment manufacturing or technologies to participate in the one year program which provides: a Certified Financial Coach, access to FaB Member Mentors; monthly cohort meetings at area food companies—all culminating in a \$10,000 FaBcap Cash Award; and a pitch to investors/funders in the program's closing ceremony. Learn more at [www.fabwisconsin.com](http://www.fabwisconsin.com).

## Wisconsin receives national award for economic development efforts

Area Development, a leading national publication covering site selection and facility planning, today announced that Wisconsin is a recipient of its 2015 "Silver Shovel Award," an honor that recognizes excellence in economic development.



"The Badger State is in the midst of a remarkable run up the economic development ladder of visibility," the magazine said in announcing the award.

"Under Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin has emerged as a model of fiscal progress and new thinking for a former Rust

**"The Badger State is in the midst of a remarkable run up the economic development ladder of visibility."**

Belt state whose economy had ossified a bit."

This award comes just weeks after another national publication - *Chief Executive Magazine* - ranked Wisconsin the 12th best state to do business in its annual survey of CEOs.

That's a big improvement from 2010, when the state ranked 41st.

In the 11th annual survey, over 500 CEOs across the U.S. responded, grading states with which they were familiar on measures including tax and regulatory regime, the quality of the workforce, and the quality of the living environment.



#12 | Wisconsin

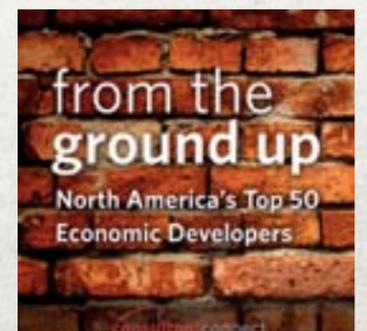
## KABA and its team continue to receive national attention

KABA is a highly professional, responsive and results-oriented economic development organization. It's skilled team works diligently to drive growth, a robust economy, and a positive business climate for the Kenosha Area. Much of that work is getting noticed throughout the country.

KABA President Todd Battle was recently featured on Consultant Connect's 'From the Ground Up'. 'From the Ground Up' is a weekly podcast series which interviews the Top 50 Economic Developers in North America as voted by their peers and the site selector community.

Earlier this year, Todd was selected as a 2015 winner of DCI's '40 Under 40 Rising Stars in Economic Development', recognizing young talent in the economic development profession.

KABA's Vice President of Economic Development, Heather Wessling, has been reaccredited as a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD). She originally earned the certification in 2012. CEcD is the leading industry designation which signifies the core competencies of a well-rounded and successful economic developer.



# EDUCATION / TALENT DEVELOPMENT

## Got a Cracker Jack idea? Attend the Fourth Annual Fastpitch Competition

The Fourth Annual FastPitch Competition is your chance to prove the potential of your business idea...meet people who can help you succeed...maybe even win a cash prize! Competitors will have three minutes max to hit it out of the park before a panel of judges from the business and investment community.

Top prize of \$5,000 will be awarded and prizes will be given to second and third place. All competitors will receive invaluable feedback, a fun experience and exposure to investors, business leaders, potential mentors, and media.

Fastpitch is for passionate entrepreneurs in all phases of business, including startup, pre-startup, or idea stage. High school seniors and college-age students welcome. It is Wednesday, August 19 at the SC Johnson iMet Center in Sturtevant. Additional information and registration forms are available at [www.gtc.edu/fastpitch](http://www.gtc.edu/fastpitch).



## KABA seeking mentors for 2015/2016 school year

The KABA Mentor Program has been connecting positive adult role models with students in need since 1997.

Why mentor? Because mentoring works! A compelling new report titled 'The Mentoring Effect' finds that youth with mentors experience significant positive outcomes including improved academic, social and economic prospects.

The KABA Mentor Program has had a positive impact on local students, helping build self esteem and self confidence, improving attendance, improving academic performance and building relationships with adults and other students. KABA encourages you to explore the links at [www.kaba.org/kaba/education\\_foundation/mentor\\_program.asp](http://www.kaba.org/kaba/education_foundation/mentor_program.asp) to find out more about this worthwhile program and discover if becoming a mentor is right for you!

If you have questions, please contact Brooke Infusino at 262.605.1100 or [binfusino@kaba.org](mailto:binfusino@kaba.org).

The University of Wisconsin-Parkside was recently named among the 100 most affordable universities. It was ranked #68 overall by [bestvalue-schools.com](http://bestvalue-schools.com).



## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 3,500 higher education degrees were awarded in the 2013/2014 academic school year to students attending one of the six institutions of higher education operating in Kenosha County.

## Gateway presented with national skills certification award

Gateway Technical College was presented in June with the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council Authorized Center award for reaching the milestone of 1,000 or more MSSC certifications, the first college in the nation to receive this honor.

The Manufacturing Skills Standards Council presented Gateway with the award which is for colleges and schools "around the country that are leaders in assessing individuals for MSSC industry-recognized nationally portable certifications."

MSSC presented the award as part of its "Industry Certifications: Closing Manufacturing Skills Gap in the Great Lakes Region" summit held in Indianapolis.

Gateway offers MSSC certifications in safety, quality, production processes and maintenance awareness as part of its manufacturing and engineering technology programs as well as its boot camps.

# INSPIRE

## KENOSHA

Wednesday, August 5, 2015 @ Uline  
**BE A LEADER WORTH FOLLOWING.**

Register today at  
[bit.ly/2015\\_Inspire\\_Kenosha](http://bit.ly/2015_Inspire_Kenosha)

## AGENDA

- 7:45 a.m. **Registration / Open Networking**
- 8:15 a.m. **Welcome**  
 Todd Battle, President, Kenosha Area Business Alliance  
 Aleta Norris, Partner, Living as a Leader
- 8:30 a.m. **Session 1: The Thought Leaders**  
 Dr. Bryan Albrecht, President, Gateway Technical College  
 Frank Unick, CFO, Uline  
 Tim Ferry, President, InSinkErator
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15 a.m. **Session 2: The Visionary**  
 Richard Sheridan, CEO, Menlo Innovations & Author of Joy, Inc.
- 11:45 a.m. **Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. **Session 3: The Innovators**  
 Ben Brenton, Chief Innovation Officer, Snap-on  
 Aleta Norris
- 2:00 p.m. **Break**
- 2:15 p.m. **Session 4: The Influencer**  
 Jean Moran, CEO, LMI Packaging Solutions  
 Leadership Action Planning
- 3:30 p.m. **Program Concludes**



BRYAN ALBRECHT



BEN BRENTON



TIM FERRY



JEAN MORAN



ALETA NORRIS



RICHARD SHERIDAN



FRANK UNICK

**Name:** Erin Merritt  
**Occupation:** Owner, /Pharmacist @ Modern Apothecary

**Why did you select downtown Kenosha for your new business, Modern Apothecary?**

First, there was a need for a pharmacy downtown. With more and more people living and working downtown, a pharmacy in the area is a huge convenience. I also wanted the pharmacy to be unique and have a vintage appeal. I felt that the best place to accomplish that would be an area with character and a diverse mix of people. Prior to pharmacy school, I dreamed of having my own pharmacy and picked out this building as my location. It is a beautiful building and I loved the fact that it was home to several pharmacies for more than fifty years.

**What is your favorite Kenosha County event/activity?**

Any of the downtown summer activities...The Harbor Market, Kenosha Pops concerts, Peanut Butter & Jam Concerts, Taste of Wisconsin, and the list goes on!

**What makes Kenosha County a great place to work and play?**

I both love and hate that everyone knows everyone in Kenosha. I love it most of the time, but hate it when I am trying to run into the grocery store in sweatpants when I am gross and sweaty and/or sick for a gallon of milk and see at least 15 people I know and have to chat with before I make it out.

**What is one thing you would like to see improved in Kenosha County?**

I would like to see more people appreciate what Kenosha has to offer. I think that for a long time, people were really excited about Kenosha being large enough to finally get the chain stores and restaurants, which, admittedly, are convenient and nice to have. However, in Kenosha, we have so many fantastic local business and restaurants. The best part is you don't have to drive 45 minutes or pay big city prices!

**What about Kenosha are you most proud of?**

I have been really impressed with how welcoming and supportive people have been since I have opened. I am proud to part of a community that is big enough to have chain stores, but small enough to want to see local businesses survive. It has also been great to see people appreciate the history and nostalgia of the building. It has been so much fun to listen stories of people who used to live and/or work in the neighborhood and remember this as a pharmacy.

**Take 5 with Kenosha YP Erin Merritt**



## Upcoming Events

Learn more about Y-Link and these events at [www.ylinkenosha.com](http://www.ylinkenosha.com).



> **Cork & Canvas @ Sol D'Licious Cafe**  
July 24 | 6:00 - 8:30 pm

> **Volunteer to 'Stuff the Backpack' @ EBSOLA Elementary School**  
August 4 | 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

> **Sunset Regatta @ Kenosha Yacht Club**  
August 19  
6:00 - 8:30 pm



> **Wine Swap at Twilight Jazz @ Anderson Arts Center**  
August 25 | 6:00 - 9:00 pm

> **Leadership Forum featuring Kenall Manufacturing's Executive Vice President of Operations Randy Hernandez @ Kenall Manufacturing**  
September 10 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

The Future 5 awards is now accepting nominations for outstanding young professionals who are making an impact in Kenosha County through their professional accomplishments, community involvement and overall moxie. Let's recognize the great talent in our community and nominate a young professional (21-40) today.

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015Future5](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015Future5)

Nomination deadline is July 31, 2015.



**FUTURE FIVE**  
young professional awards

## WHAT'S UP IN DOWNTOWN KENOSHA

### What's up with the Downtown wifi (DKIWiFi)?

Great news on our Downtown WiFi network. We have our initial component up and running around the Civic Square. This is the first piece of a system that will soon umbrella our Downtown. The next piece will be around the Harbor Market area later in the month. It will be great to offer people a connection as they are enjoying our parks and outdoor activities.



DKIWiFi is the representative landing page after people log on and click on the disclaimers and terms of use contract. We hope the additional traffic will help draw people to our business directory and help them navigate our Downtown.

It's very exciting to have this amenity for our Downtown! We thank our partners at Kenosha County and 1221 Creative for making it possible!

DKI would like to thank the Kenosha Community Foundation for providing a \$1,000 grant for the Downtown Ambassador Program!



### Downtown Kenosha Inc. would like to welcome Rettungs-Haus Shepherds Inc.

Having been a part of our community for several years as a sub-tenant, the thriving non-profit has now expanded to its own storefront at 5812 6th Avenue.

This is a German Shepherd Dog Rescue organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and finds placement for GSD dogs. They rely on private donations from individuals, corporations, organizations and fund-raising events as well as fees from services and training courses.



### From Christopher's Desk...

Downtown Kenosha Inc. is working hard behind the scenes to help revitalize and energize our amazing community. Our efforts are paying off with new businesses moving into the area, successful businesses growing here, and a new found confidence that is attracting investors and entrepreneurs alike. As we continually enhance our "sense of place" by protecting our historic past and reusing our iconic building stock, we also are promoting events and Downtown culture.

Our volunteerism is at an all time high, having logged over 1200 hours of volunteer time since the new year and netting over 27 full time jobs in the Downtown area over the same time period. Investment is happening! 60 new housing units are rising in the 5th Avenue Lofts, with 40 more market-rate units already being finalized in planning for a 2nd phase. The KYF (former YMCA) and Heritage House projects are on the brink of moving forward as the last components of financing are being arranged.

These projects will save and reuse iconic buildings and bring another 40 units of residential apartments and a 60+ room boutique hotel right into the heart of our Downtown.

Our new Downtown Ambassador program is moving forward (looking for more volunteers) and we are enjoying great participation with all of our Committees. We will be publishing our first Historic

Walking tour in the next months, along with creating a Downtown Design Guideline for building owners and developers. We are actively searching for grants and other resources we can put to work, to help our many partners enhance their Downtown development efforts. Our promotions and partnerships are accomplishing amazing things as we build awareness about our community and the special place we have here in Downtown Kenosha. It's getting noticed and the program is working! We are so very proud of all of our stakeholders who are active and believe passionately in the Downtown!

**If you wish to be a part of the action, don't hesitate. Email [Info@downtownkenosha.org](mailto:Info@downtownkenosha.org).**





PLACE  
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5500 Sixth Avenue, Suite 200  
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## UNEXPECTED Kenosha

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