

Perfectly Centered

Triannual Newsletter of the
Kenosha Area Business Alliance (KABA)

SPRING 2020

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Two manufacturers relocate and expand their operations to the Salem Business Park

Stabio North America and Advent Manufacturing sign leases for build-to-suit facilities with Zilber Property Group

Stabio North America, formerly known as Anderson Manufacturing of Bristol, WI, and Advent Tool and Manufacturing, Inc., of Antioch, IL, have both chosen to relocate and expand into new facilities in the Salem Business Park in the Village of Salem Lakes in western Kenosha County. Stabio will occupy an approximately 110,500 square foot build-to-suit and Advent will occupy approximately 25,000 SF of a 50,000 SF industrial building. The remaining 25,000 SF will be made available to industrial users in the market.

Stabio was a family-run manufacturer based at a 52,000 SF plant in the Village of Bristol since 1976. The company manufactures automotive products including specialty and complex terminals, pins, rivets, screws and studs, and also completes secondary operations like thread rolling, tapping, grinding, sorting and packaging. They were acquired by the Swiss firm Ferriere di Stabio in 2018. Di Stabio has injected capital into the business, introduced stainless steel fabrication, and ultimately made the decision earlier this year to expand with a new facility in Kenosha County.



Rendering of Stabio North America's 110,500 SF building.

"Stabio North America is excited for this opportunity for a new location to call home that will allow us to expand into new sectors of the fastener industry. Our skilled workforce is the most critical component and it was important for us to stay in the immediate area. The Salem Business Park was the ideal location for our needs. We look forward to working with KABA, Zilber Property Group, and the Village of Salem Lakes to make this a profitable venture for all involved."

— Tim Cash, President, Stabio North America

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Archives of *Perfectly Centered* can be found on our web site:

www.kaba.org



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 Kenosha Area.

From the President...



Positive economic development trends and momentum persist throughout Kenosha County as we start the New Year.

2019 was another strong year for Kenosha County development.

During the 4th Quarter, Kroger announced that they would be partnering with Ocado Supermarket Solutions, a UK based on-line grocer, to develop a highly automated customer fulfillment center in Pleasant Prairie. Recent submittals for the project note that total employment at the site could reach 700 within five years. This project is one of a network of 20 similar facilities that are to be developed throughout the U.S. as Kroger ramps up its on-line grocery business. Plans call for the development of a 330,000 SF facility with construction to commence this spring.

Nexus Pharmaceuticals wasted no time in starting the development of their new production facility which was announced last summer. That project is underway at the Prairie Highlands Corporate Park in Pleasant Prairie with an estimated completion date in 2021.

As we move into 2020, strong market conditions prevail with good leasing, development, and prospect activity.

In January, Trifinity Specialized Distribution announced plans to establish operations in Kenosha. They inked a lease agreement with Zilber Property Group and now occupy a newly constructed 250,000 SF facility adjacent to the Business Park of Kenosha and the Kenosha Regional Airport.

In February, Zilber Property Group made submittals to construct two new buildings in the Salem Business Park. Plans call for the development of an 110,000 SF facility for Stabio North America and a 50,000 SF facility that would be 50% occupied by Advent Tool & Manufacturing. KABA owns the Salem Business Park and is working closely with Zilber, Stabio, Advent, and the Village of Salem Lakes to advance these projects. Spring construction starts are anticipated.

This strong industrial development activity throughout Kenosha County continues to put pressure on local infrastructure, housing, and the labor market. A

major expansion and re-build of STH 142 is set to start this summer. Several multi-family developments are under construction and new single-family home construction is picking up as well. Kenosha County continues to have population and labor force growth rates that outpace the region and state. However, acknowledging these constraints and working to mitigate them is critically important for Kenosha County's future growth.

As we head into spring, we also begin to gear up for KABA's annual meeting in late March. We will have significant turnover on the KABA Board as several directors have completed terms of service, relocated from the area, or taken on new roles. I would like to acknowledge and thank these individuals: Susan Crane, Michael Gardner, Tim Geraghty, Randy Hernandez, Brenda Penesis, Paul Schrock, Jim Sherman and Susan Ventura. KABA relies heavily on its all-volunteer board for leadership, strategic direction and support. We greatly appreciate your service and wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Todd Battle

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES FOR

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acqrx.com

ADVENT TOOL & MFG
advent-threadmill.com

DATA CABLE INC.
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DOUGLAS KENT DEVELOPMENT
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FIVE-STAR MOVING CREW
wemovekenosha.com

**GREENFIRE MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, LLC**
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GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY
gilbaneco.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



The 2020 KABA Annual Meeting has been postponed. Additional details will be emailed to registrants and our newsletter subscribers. Updates will also be posted at bit.ly/KABAAM2020.



Learn more at ypweek.com



Learn more at inspirekenosha.com



Nominations open in June!

Information about our upcoming events can be found at kaba.org/news/events. If you would like to receive invitations and communications from KABA, sign up for our newsletter at kaba.org. Interested in sponsoring an upcoming event? Contact KABA at info@kaba.org or 262.605.1100.

THEIR INVESTMENT IN KABA:

HORIZON SYSTEMS MACHINING
horizonsystemsmachining.com

J.H FINDORFF & SON INC.
findorff.com

KUTZLER EXPRESS, INC.
kixinc.com

O'NEIL, CANNON, HOLLMAN,
DEJONG & LAING
wilaw.com

RSM
rsmus.com

THYSSENKRUPP MATERIALS
thyssenkrupp.com/en

WANGARD PARTNERS
wangard.com

INTERESTED IN INVESTING?

Your membership is an important investment in the economic well-being of the community where you live, work, or do business. Learn more at kaba.org/invest-with-us/why-invest.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Two exciting new projects for the Salem Business Park

< Continued from front page

"It's exciting to see these impactful projects taking place in the western part of Kenosha County. That was the goal when we partnered with Salem Lakes and KABA on the Salem Business Park and it's gratifying to see that happen. I'm proud to welcome these two great manufacturing companies to Salem Lakes and see them build expanded new facilities and create jobs in Kenosha County."

— Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser

Stabio plans to employ 80 at the new facility - 50 retained and 30 new jobs added. The new facility will house \$10 million in new equipment and accommodate the company's recent growth.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation is providing \$250,000 in tax credits for the Stabio project, and it will be receiving a \$200,000 forgivable loan from the Kenosha County High Impact Fund administered by KABA. The Village of Salem Lakes is providing an additional \$200,000 grant from the Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) District.

Advent Manufacturing is a custom manufacturer of thread and form milling products. The company needed to expand and will be going from an 18,000 SF building in Antioch to a 25,000 SF facility in Salem Lakes. They currently employ 23 with plans to add a few additional employees.

The Advent project will be receiving a \$50,000 forgivable loan from the Kenosha County High Impact fund, with Salem Lakes providing a matching amount from the TIF district.

Zilber will begin construction on both industrial facilities this spring, and are anticipated to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2020. The Salem Business Park was developed by the Kenosha Area Business Alliance in partnership with the Village of Salem Lakes and Kenosha County in 2016. The 65-acre industrial business park is currently home to custom packaging and components manufacturer, Vonco Products.



Rendering of Advent Tool and Manufacturing's 50,000 SF building. Advent will occupy 25,000 SF.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to partner with two long-standing manufacturers to develop functional facilities that will improve operations and long term growth goals for each company. We look forward to working with KABA, Salem Lakes staff and elected officials to continue building on these successful projects in the Salem Business Park."

—John Kersey, Executive Vice President, Zilber Ltd.

United Conveyor Corporation opens for business, hosts grand opening event at their Pleasant Prairie facility

United Conveyor Corporation (UCC) is a global leader in environmental solutions for power generation and heavy industry. They recently consolidated and expanded its manufacturing operations into a new 150,000 SF facility in Pleasant Prairie. They held a grand opening / ribbon cutting event in December to celebrate.

"We're excited about expanding our manufacturing operations into Kenosha County. Lake View Corporate Park provides easy access for our customers, suppliers and employees. The state-of-the-art facility will help increase efficiencies in production and allow future growth for the company."

— Brandon Lipska, Vice President, Supply Chain, UCC



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Haribo, Nexus prepare for construction; HSA buys land at Prairie Highlands Corporate Park

The Prairie Highlands Corporate Park in Pleasant Prairie is about to see a lot of activity with construction starting or continuing on several new projects.

Construction continues on Aurora Healthcare's new facility. The 100,000 SF ambulatory care center and three-story, 100,000 SF professional office building are taking shape and slated to open this June.

Haribo recently closed its purchase deal with the Village of Pleasant Prairie on the 136.8-acre site for their first North American facility. Grading and infrastructure work is nearing completion and a groundbreaking is set to take place later this year, with construction to follow. The multi-phase project includes a manufacturing facility, administrative building, warehouse, day-care center, fitness building and a retail experience for the public.

"Project Tomorrow" is the name Nexus Pharmaceuticals has given to its new aseptic manufacturing facility currently under construction in Prairie Highlands. Foundation work has been completed. The three-story, 100,000 SF, high-tech manufacturing facility, the only project of its kind in the last 30 years, will re-establish generic pharmaceutical manufacturing in the U.S. The \$250 million project will employ nearly approximately 75 people. Learn more about the facility at nexuspharma.net/project-tomorrow.

HSA Commercial Real Estate paid \$8.9 million to the village of Pleasant Prairie for land in the park where it plans to develop three speculative industrial facilities. The three buildings could total about 1 million square of new space.



Illinois-based logistics company Trifinity relocating to Kenosha



Trifinity Specialized Distribution is relocating its operations from Waukegan, Illinois, to a 250,000 SF facility it leased, with an option to eventually purchase, from Zilber Property Group in the Business Park of Kenosha. The initial move means 61 jobs that were in Waukegan are coming to Kenosha.

Trifinity is a third-party logistics company. Manufacturers will send it large truckloads of product, and Trifinity will handle the logistics of shipping them in smaller orders to stores or other customers.

Amazon, Uline announce additional growth plans in Kenosha County

Two of Kenosha County's major employers continue to grow and expand their operations here.

In December, Uline announced plans to build two new distribution centers along I-94, their third and fourth buildings on Uline's Kenosha campus near Highway 142. The \$130 million project, which would add 350 jobs, will be comprised of two distribution centers - one more than 1 million SF and the other approximately 650,000 SF.



Photo courtesy of Hunzinger Construction Company

Amazon announced last month that it will be leasing a 748,300 SF facility west of I-94 just north of their current warehouse. The new building would employ about 300 workers, with seasonal employment reaching as high as 500. The facility is planned to be up and running by mid May.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How do we meet Kenosha County's workforce housing needs?

KABA recently partnered with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to host a community-wide discussion about the challenges and opportunities facing the housing market in Kenosha County. Several community planning and residential development experts participated. We asked three of them to answer some questions to relay some of the ideas and information gleaned from the summit. Here are their responses in part, read more online at the KABA Blog: kaba.org/news/blog.

Michael Harrigan, Partner, H & A Advisors, LLC

Q: What would you consider workforce housing? How do you define it?

A: Housing for persons with the 80 - 120% of Median Household Income range that is affordable assuming 30-35 % of their income is limit on expense for housing.

Q: How do you make financing for workforce housing work?

A: By subsidizing the gap between the amount that the family can pay and the cost and by eliminating the hurdles imposed by local regulations on building construction, lot size and impact fees. Also by providing time to capture appreciation of value to help bridge gap to fund home ownership.

Q: How can TIF (tax incremental financing) be used for housing?

A: To bridge the gap between housing costs and income. Using the 1 year extension, changing statute to allow for 3 years and use of existing TID law for rehabilitation, mixed use and blight elimination. Change statute to allow for 60% residential in mixed use vs 35% under existing laws.

Q: What are other unique ways you've seen municipalities fund workforce housing developments?



Michael Harrigan (top), Kurt Paulsen (middle), and Michael Pollocoff (bottom), each led interactive tabletop discussions at the housing summit on Jan. 28th. See more photos from the event, visit the KABA facebook page: [KABAConnectHere](https://www.facebook.com/KABAConnectHere).

A: Creation of revolving fund to encourage home ownership.
Kurt Paulsen, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin

Q: What happens when a community does not have enough workforce housing?

A: One way to think about this is that a home is where a job goes to sleep at night. Economic development officials and local communities create opportunities for employment through land use and tax policies that encourage businesses, shops, offices or manufacturing facilities. But if they are not also accepting housing for the workers who will work these jobs, then they are exacerbating the workforce housing shortage. Eventually, if housing is too expensive or not available near where people work, the workforce will go elsewhere. We either have to

build more housing near jobs or make massive investments in our transportation infrastructure to get people to jobs.

Q: What the causes of the workforce housing shortage?

A: There are three main causes of the workforce housing shortage. First, we are not producing enough to keep up with overall population and job growth. Second, the cost of construction has grown much faster than inflation and incomes. Third, the land use regulations adopted by municipalities which impose larger minimum lot sizes, prohibit attached housing such as townhomes or duplexes, limit multifamily construction, along with minimum parking requirements.

Michael Pollocoff, CEO, Springbrook Municipal Strategies

Q: What types of developments should we be encouraging our municipalities to move forward on?

A: Municipalities should closely examine their current master land use plans to incorporate higher density single family land uses in a manner that it doesn't make it an exception to existing uses. The re-introduction of the "New Urbanism" model of development can also reduce development expenses and subsequent municipal service expenses. Apartment and condominium developments with no common access hallways are another development model that has been slowly growing in this area, and it should be encouraged to continue.

Q: What are some unique developments or ideas that other communities have done successfully?

A: Cluster homes (see blog) represent a way to reduce expenses for everyone. The other type of development would be "Patio Homes". This type of development puts the garage right off the street, which can also be private, and the front door opens to a common open area that is landscaped and shared with neighbors. Some of these developments across the country have utilized stormwater retention ponds with fountains as the centerpiece that is surrounded by housing units. Both of these types of developments have the impact of reducing linear street expenses while providing opportunities to address storm water issues.



ON LEADERSHIP

Leaders! Shift from DOING to LEADING | by Aleta Norris

Most leaders are, first and foremost, high-performing individual contributors. For most, the ability to get stuff done is what landed them their leadership role.

And guess what? This high-performing, get-stuff-done passion does not go away just because of a promotion.

I'd like to tell you about Rebecca. Like so many leaders, she was consumed by her project list, as well as her endless list of required meetings every day.

Rebecca prided herself on all that she could accomplish in a day. Although she was in a leadership role, she was quick to remind her team that she was also expected to attend meetings, participate on project teams, and get her own work done on behalf of the company.

The Problem: Rebecca was regularly annoyed by the needs of her employees

"Why can't they just do their work?" Rebecca often thought. "I didn't need all of this attention from my boss...and still don't actually." Rebecca's employees, meanwhile, were frustrated that she was often unavailable, even keeping her door shut if she wasn't away in meetings. And when they knocked on her door, they were often welcomed with a "now what?" sigh.

The solution/the approach

Because Rebecca was systematically (and in fairly short order) creating frustration—even resentment—on her team, her boss, Mike, sat down with her to share these concerns. While Rebecca was defensive and touted her excellent track record for getting results, Mike explained that she is no longer measured only on her own work accomplishment but—even moreso—on the success of her team.

Rebecca agreed to begin making a conscious effort to make herself available to her team. She incorporated two of our strategies: a) Schedule leadership and b) create a visibility plan. As you read the examples that follow, you'll see how Rebecca wove some things into her regular schedule and made herself visible (and accessible) to her team.

1. Every day, Rebecca talks to at least one of her employees to ask how their day is going and learn what they need from her.
2. Every morning, Rebecca comes out of her office at 9:00 am to say good morning to all of her employees. This seemingly small gesture makes her more available to her team if they need something to get started for their day.
3. Rebecca now leaves her door open as a sign of availability.
4. And, my favorite—she stopped sighing.

The result

Rebecca has learned that a key expectation of her new role is to, in fact, make time for her employees. By helping to maximize their productivity and satisfaction in their roles, the department is getting more accomplished, and her employees feel better about coming to work.

What about you? Do you have opportunities to become more available to your team?

Aleta Norris is a leadership expert and Principal at Living as a Leader LLC.



Positivity x Progress x People | by Andrew Gavin

When I took the job as the Director of Athletics at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, I was a few years ahead of schedule, in my own mind. My experiences prepared me for the job, but I was not ready to walk in on day one as this buttoned up leader with my polished core values, expectations, and leadership speech.

With this in mind, through self-reflection I created #RangerIMPACT to show our student-athletes, campus, and community my guiding principles and set the foundational values for Parkside Athletics.

- > Inspire Others
- > Positivity x Progress x People
- > Commitment to Community
- > Mindful of Mission
- > Appreciation of Differences
- > Telling Our Story

For the purposes of this column, I want to focus on the #RangerIMPACT value I consider a multiplier - **Positivity x Progress x People**.

Positivity

I'm a glass half full person, arguably to a fault sometimes. If I'm doing a basic SWOT analysis, the S and O lists are going to grow more rapidly

than the W and T. A positive, optimistic focus on a day-to-day basis, even in the face of adversity, allows me as a leader to shift my mindset to the solution. It also fosters creativity, productivity, and vision. Acknowledging and understanding real challenges is critical, but what if we spent no more than 10% on the problem and 90% on the solution? As a leader, a positive, solution-focused

outlook can spread quickly to those around you.

Progress

We have all heard a version of the following... if you are standing still, you are going backwards. For me, that mindset of progress is fuel. My mind races when it comes to progress. When I ask myself questions, most are related to progress. "What is our next opportunity to improve?"... "What should we be doing better?"... "What do we need to accomplish?" I hope our staff would attest that we try not to miss opportunities to celebrate progress, but we do not rest on our laurels long before asking, "Now what, what's next?"

People

Most importantly, focus on people. Focus on the people you impact. People you serve. People you are working for. People you are working alongside. People that complement (and hopefully compliment) you. People that challenge you. Surround yourself with good people focused on working together to impact people.

The Multiplying Impact

If you multiply any two of the Ps, I believe you will inevitably accomplish the third. Multiply your positive attitude with good people, and progress is undeniable. Take good people and multiply them with a focus on progress, and your results will be positive. Concentrate on making continual progress with a positive outlook and environment, and you will develop, help, and impact people. Focus on all three Ps and multiply them together, and sit back and watch the magic happen!

Disclaimer: The reverse multiplying effect can happen as well, but that is too negative of a topic for me to address.

Andrew Gavin is the Director of Athletics at the University of Wisconsin - Parkside.



Life Balanced

KENOSHA COUNTY

The Life Balanced Kenosha County (LB) web site launched officially in March 2019. Below are some metrics for the first ten months, March - Dec. 2019.

Please consider adding a link to LifeBalancedKenosha.com from your website to show your visitors the community where you do business. If you would like more information about Life Balanced Kenosha County, or if your company would like to be featured, please contact Becky Noble at bnoble@kaba.org.



483,357

total impressions
of LB content

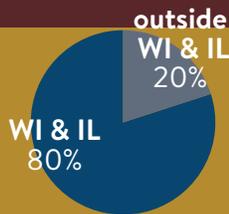
403,555

total no. of people who
have seen LB content

Nearly **half a million** people have seen content about Life Balanced Kenosha by either visiting the site or on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn.

The state besides Wisconsin with the most visitors is Illinois by a wide margin.

In August 2019 and September 2019, more people visited the site from Illinois than any other state, including Wisconsin.



20% of LB traffic comes from outside WI & IL

216 backlinks



33%
of all web site visitors are from IL

40% of the LB traffic from WI comes from outside Kenosha County, with the most visitors coming from Milwaukee, Racine, Madison, and Green Bay.



Community partners and businesses have been steadily adding the LB link to their web sites. The number of backlinks has been increasing since launch with 216 total backlinks coming from 37 domains.

Let's get social...

The Life Balanced Kenosha County social media campaign launched in July 2019. Below and at the bottom of the opposite page are some metrics for the first ten months, July - Dec. 2019.

LB Facebook/Instagram ads and posts were seen almost **191,000** times.

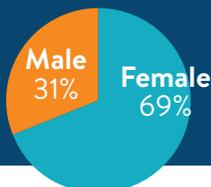


Facebook has more than **1,000** followers.



Top view locations for followers are: Kenosha, Chicago and Milwaukee

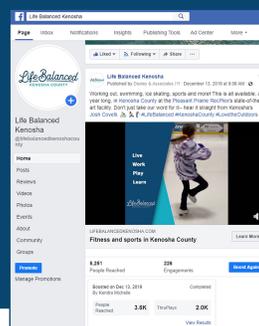
Facebook audience:



1,000+



Life Balanced videos were viewed more nearly **40,000** times.

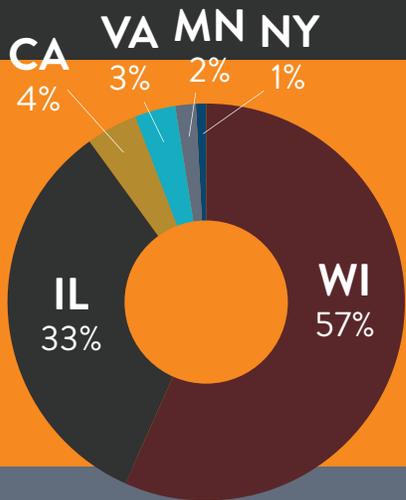


THE LIFE BALANCED FACEBOOK PAGE HAS POSTED SEVERAL VIDEOS FEATURING KENOSHA COUNTY RESIDENTS EXCITED ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY. THE VIDEO LEFT SHOWCASED THE RECPLEX.

A LOOK AT 2019...

The LB site has seen visitors steadily from Illinois, California, Virginia, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Oregon, Pennsylvania and many other states.

The LB site averages **325+** unique visitors from outside of Wisconsin each month. An average of **87%** visitors per month are new.



Did you know?

LB provides at least two and up to six high credibility backlinks, meaning the LB site links back to your site. This provides indispensable local search value.

Awards & recognitions...

GDUSA GRAPHIC DESIGN USA

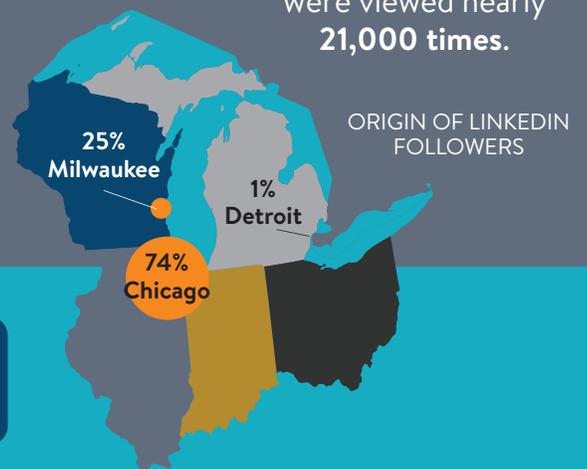
The LB web site won a 2019 American Web Design Award from Graphic Design USA



...and an IEDC Gold Award in the Special Purpose Website Category for populations 50,000 to 200,000

Let's get social...

LB posts on LinkedIn were viewed nearly **21,000 times.**



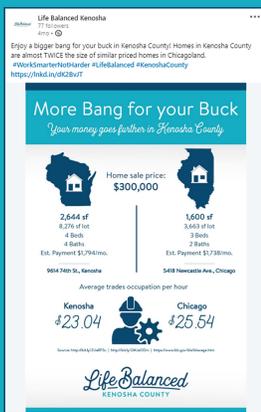
THIS LINKEDIN POST ON OCTOBER 3 HAD 5,992 IMPRESSIONS

The Life Balanced Kenosha LinkedIn page has **77** followers:

The page was visited **166** times:

- > 74% from greater Chicago Area
- > 25% from greater Milwaukee Area
- > 1% from Detroit Area

- > 69% from greater Chicago Area
- > 29% from greater Milwaukee Area



LET'S TALK TALENT

Building our Future 2019 Impact Report: Together, We're Better

Message from Executive Director Tatjana Bicanin

Envision a community in which every child has the opportunity and supports to succeed in school and in life, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or income. What does this community look like, feel like, and sound like? This is our vision for Kenosha County—a place where everyone can achieve their personal potential.

At Building Our Future, we understand that we can only get better results for our children and families when we work together. Nothing miraculous happens from individual effort.

It takes strong partners, community members, local funders, government officials, educators, businesses, parents and children to improve educational outcomes from



cradle to career. Three years into our partnership, the momentum remains strong. Building Our Future continues to serve as the backbone entity for Kenosha County collective impact work—connecting the community's diverse assets, providing disaggregated data for decision making, and maintaining a focus on racial equity—to ensure our community's efforts achieve lasting impact.

In our impact report, we want to celebrate some of the ways our community partners are working together to remove barriers to individual success and ultimately lead to improved educational outcomes. Kenosha County becomes the community we envisioned when all children enter kindergarten ready to learn, every child has access to books and data-driven supports, effective practices have been identified to close gaps in high school graduation, and more students have access to postsecondary opportunities.

Read the entire report at bit.ly/2019BOF_ImpactReport.

YLINK: YOUNG LEADERS IN KENOSHA



KABA is pleased to announce that Brandi Cummings has been named the new YLink Executive Director. YLink is a program of KABA which focuses on developing unique opportunities for young professionals to connect with each other and to the quality of life assets throughout Kenosha County. The previous director, Brooke Infusino, is still involved and assisting with the KABA program in various capacities.

Cummings, who previously served as President of the YLink Leadership Council, will lead the organization in its mission of attracting, retaining and engaging young professionals in our community. Cummings also works for the Kenosha Public Library as the Communications Specialist.

For more details on how you or your organization can get involved in YLink, contact Brandi at bcummings@ylinkenosha.com or call 262-925-3463.



YP Week is back in Kenosha in April! Unique sponsorship packages are available now for organizations looking to support unique programming for young professionals in Kenosha - and get your brand seen statewide.

Contact Brandi Cummings at bcummings@ylinkenosha.com for more information about YP Week or any YLink programming or information.

DOWNTOWN KENOSHA, INC. (DKI)

Spring in Downtown Kenosha is blooming!

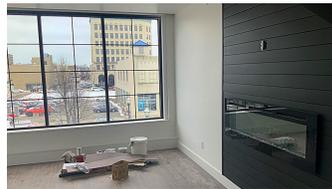
Message from Executive Director Alexandria Binanti Robinson.

Downtown Kenosha Inc. (DKI) is excited to announce several projects getting ready to launch. Coming in March you'll get a chance to see two new restaurant/bar locations opening with Gordon's Sports Bar and Grill and the Down Town'R Saloon. Focusing on home style cooking, barbeque, seafood, cocktails and more these locations are ready to take on the Downtown scene.

Another dining experience will be making a grand entrance from the long awaited new boutique hotel and restaurant the Apis Hotel. This historic preservation project from the Grease and Honey Group has transformed the Isserman Building into a luxury hotel with six expansive rooms and suites, innovative culinary talent and a soon to open roof top bar. As one of the awardees of the DKI Façade Grant Program and recipients of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Community Development Investment Program, this project has championed the preservation and repurpose of the historic building for the investment of the community in a stunning way.

Late spring is the planned opening for The Vault, a new event space at the rehabilitated historic bank building. The new venue, being developed by Shel's Bridal and Talent, LLC., is working to preserve original architectural details.

The calendar for the DKI SPARK Series can be found at downtownkenosha.org. The next event will be a restaurant expert session from developer Ryan Doerr: Thursday, April 3rd, 9 a.m. at Kenosha Creative Space. There will be one-on-one consult sign-ups following the networking session.



The Apis Hotel



The WITICO development

We didn't forget one of the major downtown historic preservation projects taking place and are excited to announce that our Annual State of the Downtown will be held at the newest venue being developed at the Historic Bardens Building! It will be the first event in the new location of Public Craft Brewing Co. and Upper East. The event, to be held in mid-June, will showcase this incredible building revitalization from the Witico group. More details to come, including event date and keynote speaker. Want to stay in the loop? Sign up for our newsletter at downtownkenosha.org/newsletter.

In other news...

RUST-OLEUM LEASES SPACE IN PLEASANT PRAIRIE JELLY BELLY BUILDING

Vernon Hills, Illinois-based Rust-Oleum is expanding its presence in Kenosha County with the lease of 102,000 SF of industrial space in Pleasant Prairie. Rust-Oleum will use the space for warehouse and distribution purposes.

The coating manufacturing company is leasing space from Jelly Belly Candy Co. in its building at 10100 Jelly Belly Lane. The Fairfield, California-based candy manufacturer will continue occupying the remaining 132,000 SF.

PROPOSED KENOSHA COUNTY SOLAR FARM COULD FEATURE WISCONSIN'S FIRST UTILITY-SCALE BATTERY

Chicago-based Invenergy recently submitted plans for a 200-megawatt solar farm with a 50-megawatt battery component. That's larger than any battery currently deployed on the nation's power grid and the first in the state of Wisconsin, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"This is really, really significant. This would really give Wisconsin some real leadership points", said Carol Werner, executive director of the Environmental and Energy Study Institute.

Read more about these stories and others at kaba.org/news/list.



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