



City of Hudson, Ohio

LATEST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

City Entertains Chinese Delegation

Hudson city officials welcomed community leaders from Gaoyou, China, November 18 at the Hudson Town Hall and exchanged gifts before exchanging ideas on culture and trade opportunities.

Gaoyou's Vice Mayor Xueren Tang, through an interpreter, said "the purpose of the trip was to promote trade and cultural exchange between the two cities. I hope through this meeting we can establish a long term relationship between the cities. I have brought many executives looking for investment opportunities in Hudson."

The trip was organized by Hudson companies, Lianda Corp. and Megalite Inc. Lianda is a chemical and polymer company, and Megalite makes fluorescent bulbs and other lighting products.

Neighbors Work Together for the Future

Hudson Mayor William Currin and Boston Heights Mayor Bill Goncy signed a memorandum of understanding November 12 that is designed to increase the sharing of resources between the communities to enhance economic development along the cities' borders. Hudson has commercially zoned land with utilities along its western border in the area, and Boston Heights has commercially zoned land in need of water and sewer service along State Route 8.

"The MOU is the first step as we work toward mutual collaboration between our communities," said Tony Bales, Hudson City Manager. "We look forward to working with Boston Heights on issues that affect both municipalities."

"This is a great opportunity to strengthen growth along the Chittenden Road corridor, while preserving land contained in the Brandywine Creek and Mud Brook watersheds," said Boston Heights Mayor Bill Goncy. "Both communities could benefit economically and ecologically."

Growth will occur along Route 8 after construction on the road is completed in 2010, allowing for better access to the Ohio Turnpike and eliminating traffic signals along Route 8.

The memorandum of understanding is non-binding but it formally encourages discussions of mutual interest. All the land in the agreement is in the Hudson City School District.

Leaders Looking for Business in India

A group of Summit County officials, including Hudson's Mayor William A. Currin and Economic Development Director Chuck Wiedie are hoping to bring an international business flavor to Northeast Ohio with a mission to the other side of the globe.

A contingent representing the Summit County Mayor's Association is planning an economic development mission to India. The group will leave on November 30 and return on December 12.

This "pathfinding trip" is looking to increase exports and investment in Summit County. India was chosen because a contingent of business leaders first visited Summit County last summer with the idea of a mutual business exchange. India is also one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Lexi-Comp Marks 30th Anniversary

Just a handful was on the Lexi-Comp payroll when the medical publishing opened its doors 30 years ago. Today the company has grown to more than 130 employees. Lexi-Comp opened its current 37,000 square-foot facility at 1100 Terex Road in Hudson 19 years ago.

"The community of Hudson provides a great location for our business. Our employees and clients enjoy the relatively easy commute and favorable environment provided by the city" said Robert Kerscher, Lexi-Comp Chairman and Founder.

Acquisition Could Lead to 50 or More New Local Jobs

The recent acquisition of a local financial consulting firm by a New Jersey company will mean up to 50 new jobs to the area and an opportunity for the firm to be part of a national consulting firm.

ClearCreek Financial Group (CCFC), 1931 Georgetown Road in Hudson, was acquired by U.S. Retirement Partners (USRP) of New Jersey.

The company has expanded its 12,000 square-foot office from 10 to 25 advisors and hopes to add an additional 25 to 30 advisors in the next 3 years.

Denny Brooks, President and Founder of CCFG, a 16-year Hudson resident, said the company will remain in Hudson. A representative of USRP said that this was a real opportunity for ClearCreek to become part of a national organization. Hudson is a terrific area, located in a wonderful part of the County and in a great part of America.

High School Earns National Accolade

On the heels of the school district's "Excellent with Distinction" ranking on its State of Ohio report card, a new national distinction puts the high school in a rare class among U.S. schools.

Hudson High School was among 320 schools across the nation, including 21 in Ohio, to be named a Blue Ribbon School.

According to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the award honors schools "that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels."

Patricia Pickard, Director of Teaching and Learning said "the school was selected based on its state test scores, which ranked in the top 10 percent in Ohio, along with showing test score

improvements among all students, including minority, special needs and economically disadvantaged students.”

Company Expands Nationally With Acquisition of Oregon Firm

Norandex Building Materials Distribution, headquartered in Hudson, recently expanded its local and national presence with the acquisition of a Portland, Oregon Company – Crown Building Materials.

Norandex, located at 300 Executive Parkway West, moved its headquarters to Hudson in April. The company operates 160 branches in 38 states. Norandex President Brian Chambers stated, “Northeast Ohio is logistically a good central location and Hudson in particular has a reputation as one of the best places in the Midwest for employers to do business.”

Hudson Technology Firm Receives \$1 Million Investment

ARDC Technologies of Hudson recently received a \$1 million investment from a venture capital firm to help the company take its machine control technology process worldwide.

Jim Dawson, ARDC owner, explains “every piece of machinery, equipment or chemical process in manufacturing is controlled by some sort of computer. When the operating system of the computer breaks down, the machine or process breaks down.”

ADRC has developed a control device which replaces the deepest part of the most internal workings of the control without replacing the computer or sensors.

The company, founded in 2006, has five employees and hopes to expand if the control system is accepted.