

Ken-Ton Bee Article

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Anthony F. Caruana, Supervisor, Town of Tonawanda

Despite the difficult economic times the national, state, counties, and local areas are in with the on-going recession, The Town of Tonawanda has been moving ahead with new jobs and business developments. Despite the fact that some suburban Industrial Development Agencies (IDA's) are luring and helping some businesses from other municipalities with tantalizing tax incentives which have been questioned by members of the Erie County Industrial Development Agency (ECIDA), our town has fared well recently with encouraging economic growth here.

During the last several years, gigantic investment by General Motors into the Tonawanda Powertrain Plant, has boosted the plant providing over \$2.3 billion dollars over the last 10 years, including over \$850 million in the last two years alone. Through amazing cooperative efforts with the GM Management, UAW, the town, county, school district and the ECIDA, we restructured a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) agreement, providing GM Powertrain the advantage over competing national GM plants, and in intense competition, GM Tonawanda was selected for the new Eco-Tech and other new engine line expansions, boosting production, and creating over 500 new jobs.

Duane Paddock Chevrolet purchased the old, vacant Doyle Ford location on Delaware Avenue. He is upgrading the site and all his showrooms with several million dollars in expansions, improvements, and renovations.

Despite Premier Liquor leaving its Delaware Avenue location due to space and parking limitations, we are very pleased to see the very quick sale to a new business to our town, a local home grown company. We welcome Len-Co Lumber and the Coppola Family to our town. They should be moving into the site late in 2012 after Premier moves out.

We are also pleased to see the expansion at our Colvin Woods Park with United Healthcare Services providing an additional 75 jobs making over 500 new employees over the past few years.

Additionally, Unifrax launched a \$20 million expansion with 50 new jobs added at their plant on Fire Tower Drive.

Likewise Riverview Solar Technology Park welcomed Electro Sonic with 55 new employees. This company expanded from Canada for US distribution of electronic parts. The Green Career Institute of California also joined the Park and is working with local schools to train students on green technology for new jobs in the field. We are waiting on another announcement soon of another great addition to this park.

Some other new businesses include Anderson Equipment and its \$5 million investment on Military Road, a new Dialysis Center at Colvin/Eggert Plaza, The Delaware Restaurant, Sinatra Reality Development, Stanton Optical at Sheridan and Niagara Falls Blvd., Buffalo Roadhouse, Buffalo Wild Wings, and new furniture store in the old Rosa's building on Sheridan Drive.

We are still welcoming more businesses and industry as we continue to offer great locations, a diverse workforce pool, and shovel ready sites in our Tonawanda Opportunity Area properties.

All in all, we are moving forward with jobs and businesses because we are a great place to live, work, and play despite the current economic conditions. Great news for us!