

# hed. Lines

A publication of the Harvard Economic Development Corporation



## Chairman's Column

By HEDC Chairman Roger Lehmann



Helping local businesses succeed is an important part of economic development. Although new companies often get the press, the retention and expansion of existing Harvard companies has always been an HEDC priority.

Helping new businesses get started in Harvard is also important. Companies that start here are likely to stay here. As a community, Harvard has always had an impressive list of long-term local businesses.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank **Tina Magnetta** of Castle Bank for her service on the HEDC Board of Directors. Tina remains involved in many community projects and we have valued her involvement. I would also like to welcome **Mike Morris** to the HEDC Board of Directors. Mark joined Castle as a Commercial Banker earlier this year. He has more than 25 years of experience to bring to the table.

We hope you will help the Harvard Food Pantry and Senior Center building project by supporting the 'Pork for the Pantry' fundraiser on August 21 at Milky Way Park. Tickets for the pig roast and family festival are available at City Hall, the Diggins Library and the Harvard Chamber office. Call the event line at (815) 333-2146 for more information.

## Coqueta's Opens at 300 N. Ayer



Shown at the July ribbon cutting for the women's clothing and accessory store are, left to right: Barb Rowe, Joridia Salas, Mayor Jay Nolan, Jay Schulz, Cindy Rowe, Crystal Musgrove.

## Growing Strong Local Businesses

Harvard is a good place to grow a business, due to efforts by the **Harvard Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)** and some unexpected assistance from a former barrel factory.

The 21,000 square foot building at 3 N. Lincoln Street has become an unofficial 'incubator' for new and growing businesses in Harvard, counting three local companies among its success stories.

**Harvard Factory Automation** used part of the building (known locally as 'the barrel factory') as a design and manufacturing facility before purchasing a 20,000 square foot facility in Arrowhead Industrial Park in 2007. The company, which manufactures components used by companies in the injection molding industry, effectively doubled its space in the move to Arrowhead, enabling it to add a showroom, expand its office space and streamline its workflow.

**American Grinders** moved into the Lincoln Street building in 2007. The company makes custom color powder coating and has expanded from 3,500 to 7,000 square feet since arriving.

**Atlas Manufacturing, Ltd.** moved into the circa 1900 building around 1995, when the company relocated from Johnsburg. The company manufactures machined components for the communications, printing, packaging and aerospace industries.

Atlas recently purchased and moved into the 18,200 square foot former ADS building at 1001 W. Roosevelt. That move will nearly double the company's workspace, according to **Atlas owner Nick Leicht**.

The move also opened up 10,500 square feet in the barrel factory building, which features 14-foot ceilings, 600-amp, 3-phase power, four drive-in doors and about

800 square feet of available office space. At \$2.75 per square foot gross, the rent is affordable for even the newest company, according to building owner **Mark Stricker**.

Affordability was one of the factors that lured Atlas Manufacturing to Harvard, Leicht agreed. "It was an opportunity to get a lot bigger space at a cheaper cost," he noted. "It is less costly to start a business in Harvard."

Stricker bought the brick building in 1993 and ended up putting four times the purchase price into the structure to make it usable. Improvements included a new steel roof and stucco coating. "We think it was built to make rat traps, went through foreclosure during the Depression and then went on to make barrels until the 1970's," he said. "A number of businesses have gotten their start there."

Making it possible for local businesses to succeed and grow in Harvard is a big part of the HEDC's mission. "Growing and keeping strong local businesses in town is good for the economy and it's good for Harvard," according to **HEDC Chairman Roger Lehmann**.

A concept called 'economic gardening' is becoming popular in communities across the nation. It recognizes the impact that entrepreneurs and their self-started businesses have in a city or town. "Small business growth is driving a lot of local economies right now," noted Lehmann.

Ribbon cuttings have continued in Harvard over the past 18 months, despite the economic downturn. "Many of them are small businesses that are just getting started," according to **Mayor Jay Nolan**.

Keeping established companies in town is also a priority for the City, which relies on the sales tax revenues they generate to fund local services. "We try to create an environment that businesses can do well in," said Nolan. "Harvard is a good place to start *and* grow a business."

## Seen Around Town ...

### Food Pantry Groundbreaking



Shown at the July 22 ribbon cutting for the new **Food Pantry and Senior Center** are, left to right, Bob Mundis, Bob Burkart, John Bowdish, Celest Mann, Brian Oerkfritz, Rob Zielinski, Cindy Rowe, Donna Dixon, Mike Bannwolf, Mark Stricker, Mayor Jay Nolan, Pastor Jeff Borgerson, Debi Szczap, Father Paul White, Pat Jones, Scott Logan, Barb Rowe.

### Aero Hosts Open House

Mayor Jay Nolan (center) was joined by **Aero Industries** co-owners Gary Kinshofer (left) and Jim Clingingsmith (right) as he cut the ribbon on Aero's new location in Arrowhead Industrial Park during an open house and pig roast that the company hosted on June 18.



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## Business News ...

### New Signs Lead Downtown

New wayfinding signs will soon point visitors to top Harvard destinations, through a program paid for by the Harvard EDC.

Signs directing visitors to the Metra Station, City Hall and the downtown shopping district will be posted at five key locations along Route 14 and Route 173.

The 24" x 36" green and gold signs will be mounted on decorative posts that mirror the style used in the Downtown Harvard streetscape project.

The signs are expected to be installed this month.

### Arrowhead Building Nears Capacity

A 42,000 square foot industrial building in Arrowhead Industrial Park is now three-quarters full, thanks to the addition of a new tenant (21,000 sq. ft.) last month. That leaves just 10,500 square feet available for lease. Dean Foods leases the other quadrant of the building. The entire building is also available for sale, with a rental stream in place. Contact Mark Stricker at (815) 943-8788 for information.



### Online Database Features Commercial and Industrial Listings

The **Land & Sites Database** on the HEDC website ([www.harvardedc.com](http://www.harvardedc.com)) includes listings for vacant land, buildings for sale or lease and shovel-ready sites that are zoned for commercial or industrial use in the 60033 zip code.

Members of the HEDC may list eligible properties on the site, with their contact information, as part of their membership. Non-members may also list eligible properties, but the Harvard EDC will be the listing contact.

An HEDC member may list multiple properties, but may only have one contact name per membership. Listings must reflect current zoning, not potential or special uses. Residential listings or listings for residential-zoned property are not accepted. Other restrictions may apply.

Call the HEDC at (815) 943-1036 for further information or to list an eligible property on the website.

## Mayor's Column

By Mayor Jay Nolan



The new signs that will direct drivers to key downtown areas such as the Metra station, City Hall and downtown stores are a great way to encourage traffic into the downtown district. The City appreciates the HEDC's willingness to suggest and pay for the project. It will make it easier for new residents and visitors to find their way downtown.

**Congressman Don Manzullo** visited Harvard in July to talk with residents and build a list of ideas for what can be done to help the U.S. economy get back on its feet. Thank you to everyone who participated in that event.



On behalf of the City, the HEDC and all Harvard area residents, I would like to thank **Harriet Roll** for her 30 years of service to the Harvard Diggins Library. Harriet served 28 of those years as the library's

Director and she can point to Harvard's modern library building as one of her many accomplishments. Thank you, Harriet for a job well done for many years.



Harriet Roll and new Diggins Library Director Karen Sutura.

## Chamber Members Honored

Three Harvard Area Chamber of Commerce businesses were honored by the City Council for reaching milestones, top to bottom: **Skinners Amusements** (100 years), **Stan's Office Technologies** (50 years) and **Allied Plumbing** (5 years).



Skinners



Stan's



Allied Plumbing

## Manzullo Visits Harvard



Congressman Don Manzullo visited with Harvard residents at the Diggins Library on July 9 as part of his 'America Speaking Out' tour.

Membership Drive Now Underway!

## Join us!

### Welcome New Member

We'd like to welcome Aero Industries, Inc. as the newest member of the Harvard EDC. Thank you for playing an active role in building a stronger economy in our community!

The HEDC is leading the way in helping Harvard become an even better place to do business.

Call Executive Director Terry Smith at (815) 943-1036 to find out how you can play a role in Harvard's future. Affordable memberships exist for companies of all sizes, individuals and civic groups.

It's always a good time to get involved.



## Working For Harvard

Call us with your comments and suggestions: Harvard Economic Development Corp. (815) 943-1036

Other Local Contacts:

Mayor Jay Nolan/City Hall - (815) 943-6468  
State Senator Pamela Althoff - (815) 455-6330  
State Representative Jack Franks - (815) 334-0063  
Harvard Chamber of Commerce - (815) 943-4404



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