

SWEDA NEWS

Creating a Community Where People Want to Live and Work!

4th Quarter ~ 200



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Featured Property in Central Kentucky



[Akebono Building Information](#)

Street Address: One mile to Highway 555, the property is located 15 miles to the Bluegrass Parkway and 60 miles to Louisville International Airport.

Sale Price: \$3.6 Million

Sq.ft:# 145,677

Description: Prime one-story building on 55 acres in Springfield, KY

Springfield is located between I-65 and I-75 and is just south of I-64, with convenient access to both and Cumberland Parkway. It is ideally situated at the crossroads of major industrial transportation

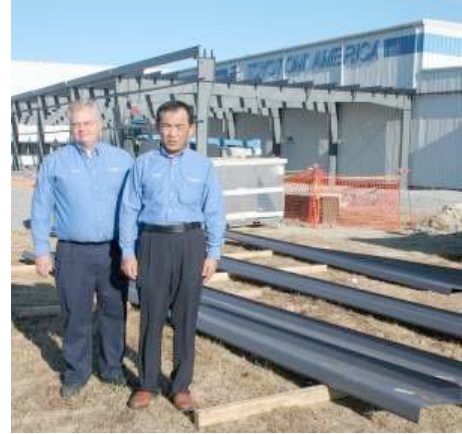
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By Jeff Moreland
Nance & Yukihiko Ushiro, President

(L)Randy

Toyotomi first arrived in Washington County nearly 10 years ago, and for the past eight years, the company has been producing automotive products in the community while providing employment to local workers. Despite tough times in the economy locally and globally, the company has announced a \$1 million expansion of its current facilities, as well as the purchase of a new \$7 million transfer press to be used in the manufacture of some of its products.



"We have an office expansion which is almost 10,000 square feet, and we also have a maintenance expansion that will house our 12-person maintenance staff," said Randy Nance, vice president of administration for Toyotomi. "The office expansion will allow us to consolidate our engineering staff as well as other management staff currently located throughout the facility. Plus, it's going to give us an additional seating capacity for 36 staff. That's a big plus for us, and it shows we're getting ready for the future. Despite the current state of the economy, growth and expansion are taking place in Washington County."

In addition to growth in building size, Toyotomi is also adding production equipment. A new transfer press that has been recently purchased is expected to nearly double production of some parts.

"That machine is for OEM (original equipment manufacturer) production. In order to make one part of what we make, there are several processes," said Yukihiko Ushiro, president of Toyotomi. "The current machine we have needs one machine for one process. The machine we have newly installed can handle several processes. This new one moves a lot faster than what we have currently. That means with this new machine, it will make the same products 1.7 times faster than the current machine. In other words, it can make the good quality parts cheaper. With cheaper pricing, we can be more competitive and get more new business. As you know, under the current situation, all of the automobile companies are very competitive right now, and in order to gain that new business, we have to win that competition."

Toyotomi currently has about 250 employees, according to Nance, and he said other jobs are expected to be added in the future. He said the new jobs will be highly skilled positions that will require education and training.

"All of the jobs we will be hiring for in the future are not inexpensive positions. They are expensive, professional-type jobs that require good skills and education. We're talking about engineering, and production-type people, and that's what you want to bring to the community," Nance said.

As the current fiscal year's hiring stands, the company has hired about 56 new employees.

Hal Goode, executive director of the Springfield-Washington County Economic Development Authority (SWEDA), said the positions that will be needed at Toyotomi could be filled by students from the new technical college currently under construction in Springfield.

"Toyotomi has been big supporters of the new technical school and what it can mean to our community. We hope the location of the school and the needs of local industries will be a nice combination," Goode said.

Ushiro said the growth of Toyotomi is a result of the company's partnership with local agencies that have welcomed it to the community and offered support.

"In order to achieve this, we have had support from Springfield, Washington County and SWEDA. Without that support, and also the people from the community, I don't think we would be able to achieve this much growth, so we are very grateful for all of your support," he said.



Getting Connected

By Jeff Moreland

The Internet and high-speed access to the Web have grown by leaps and bounds in Washington County over recent months, and that growth continued on Friday December 18th as new computers and printers made their way into the community.

ConnectKentucky, a non-profit organization working to connect people to technology across the state, brought the computers to the county with the help of its Computers 4 Kids program and a donation by AT&T.



The computers will benefit the Washington County High School's Laptop Loan Program, with 15 of the laptop units being available to students to provide computer access to those who may not otherwise have it in their homes. One computer will be placed at the Mackville Community Center for use by the general public as well as the YMCA's after school program. The other two computers will be given to the WCHS DECA club, which

will present one computer each to two students in the Youth Entrepreneurial Program.

"What an investment for our school system from AT&T and ConnectKentucky. With the Laptop Loan Program, we will help those students who need the technology at their homes and the computers for the YMCA after school programs will help the younger students in improving their skills," said Hal Goode, SWEDA Executive Director. "The computers for the DECA Youth Entrepreneurial Program and the Mackville Community Development will help with outreach to the community on the importance of using computer technology , the Internet and using computer technology with business."

Mike Cyphers, technology coordinator for Washington County schools, said he hopes the Laptop Loan Program will be up and running before Christmas break, but if not, he said it will definitely be in full swing when school starts back after the new year.

"We will have to have everything configured, but we hope to have it done soon," Cyphers said. "The students will have to have a parent sign to approve them to check out a computer, and there will have to be some sort of proof of homeowner's insurance or something so that we can be assured the computers are returned in good working order for use by other students. We will also use the computers on a day-to-day basis here in the school, as well."

Cyphers said checking out a computer will normally be a one-day process, with the computer returned the following day. He said in a situation where a student is homebound, circumstances may allow for different arrangements if necessary. The donations to purchase the computers were made possible because of a \$150,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation, the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T. AT&T's partnership with Computers 4 Kids is designed to deliver computers to charities that support and deliver services to disadvantaged children and their families after school hours across the country. Last year, C4K distributed over 150 computers and laptops, network printers, a server, and server software licenses to non-profits in Kentucky through the first \$75,000 provided by the grant. Today's donation also includes 18 Lexmark Inkjet Printers generously donated through ConnectKentucky's partnership with Lexmark International.

"We are pleased to support the Computers for Kids program and their work to provide computers and Internet access to neighborhood children and adults seeking to further their education," said Joan Coleman, President, AT&T Kentucky. "These are great programs that will extend the benefits of technology and communications to more Kentuckians."

Computers 4 Kids, a project of ConnectKentucky, is the most innovative and comprehensive initiative of its kind undertaken by any state as it is intended to help bridge the digital divide by placing computers into the hands of families and organizations that support education. "Computer 4 Kids continues to transform the lives of Kentucky's families and communities," stated Rene True, Executive Director of ConnectKentucky.

Heartland Parkway Foundation Inc. holds Inaugural Meeting

(Right)The Hon. Brett Guthrie, U.S. Representative-Elect from Kentucky's second congressional district, announced his support of the Heartland Parkway during the inaugural meeting of the Kentucky Heartland Parkway Foundation Inc. in Lebanon. (Campbellsville University Photo by Joan C. McKinney)

By Joan C. McKinney

The Hon. Brett Guthrie, U.S. Representative-Elect from Kentucky's second congressional district, announced his strong support for the proposed Heartland Parkway during the inaugural meeting of the Kentucky Heartland Parkway Foundation Inc. at Centre Square in Lebanon on Dec. 3.



"The Heartland Parkway Foundation Inc., a nonprofit corporation with tax exempt status, has been formed to educate the public and build sustained support for the proposed 60-mile Heartland Parkway Project, " said John Chowning, Campbellsville University vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, who serves as chair of the group.

Patty Dunaway, head of the District Four office of the Transportation Cabinet in Elizabethtown, said that the preliminary engineering and environmental study on a portion of the project will be moving forward. More information on future meetings related to the study will be announced by her office.

She said the Transportation Cabinet has been given a challenge to look at all projects to make sure they are fiscally responsible as a part of a "practical solutions" review process.

Other officers of the HPF Board include Washington County Judge-Executive John Settles of Springfield, vice chair; Columbia Mayor Pat Bell, secretary; and Lebanon City Administrator John O. Thomas, treasurer.

Chowning said the Heartland Parkway is a project that was started in 2000-01 with the support of Congressman Ron Lewis, R-Ky., and the board's mission is to educate the public on the importance of the construction of a four-lane highway along the Kentucky 555/55 corridor starting at the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway north of Springfield, Ky., to the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway at Columbia, Ky.

Chowning said the proposed parkway will serve as a major north-south connector that will open up the very heartland of Kentucky and help facilitate in the economic diversification and quality of life in the region.

He said the Heartland Parkway will be costly and long-term and will require regional cooperation. The option being studied is adding lanes to the existing Kentucky 555/55

corridor rather than constructing a new route. Chowning said the parkway will increase the economics in the area by \$2.2 billion per year once completed, according to an economic study that was commissioned.

Guthrie, who is a state senator from Bowling Green, expressed his support of the project and that he will continue to work with all the counties working on the project.

He said a pending stimulus package in the United States Congress focusing on building infrastructure may be an appropriate place for the board to work with for additional funding.

"This project is important, and I look forward to making it work," he said. Dan Kelly, state senator and state senate majority leader from Springfield, Ky., said roads are a costly project especially in these economic times. He said the stimulus package might help, and he hopes revenues grow at the state government level.

"The road funds grow if people drive on roads," he said. "If they don't, it's bad."

Other officials also expressed their support of the project. Board of director members from Washington, Adair, Marion and Taylor counties were present for the meeting. The Board consists of the county judge-executives and county seat mayors from the four counties, the economic development directors of each county, representatives of the three higher education institutions (Lindsey Wilson College, Campbellsville University and St. Catharine College), two at-large members from each county, state senators and representatives from the region, representatives of the Lake Cumberland and Lincoln Trail Area Development Districts, and a few at-large members from around the state.

Representatives from the offices of United States Senators Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.; and Jim Bunning, D-Ky., and U.S. Congressmen Ed Whitfield, R-Ky, and U.S. Congressman Ron Lewis, also expressed support of the project. Jim Askins from Bunning's office said, "The group of people here do things the right way. You're on track."

Chowning said the board of directors of the Heartland Parkway Foundation will serve as a leadership team to work with the federal and state governments and others who will study the feasibility, costs and funding of the project.

To get involved in the project, contact Chowning at (270) 789-5520 or jchowning@campbellsville.edu.

St. Catharine College Residence Hall to accommodate Increase in Enrollment

By Tom Bystrek

The new residence hall will house 72 students which will bring the total residence hall capacity on campus to 232. In addition to the students' rooms the new hall will have a lobby that will serve it as well as the two existing halls, Althaire and Dominic.



"We are very excited about the completion of this project that will be a \$5 million investment," said SCC president William D. Huston. "It will include a full kitchen and meeting room so our organizations on campus can host activities there."

As Huston points out, however, the new living quarters will just accommodate the current student population. For that reason, Huston added, "we are looking next at building more residence halls that will house only upperclassmen."

SWEDA partners with MCATC for Washington County Freshman Academy Tours

The Marion County Area Technical Center recently partnered with SWEDA to host Washington County Freshman with a tour of the facility, as well as industrial tours in Washington County. Afterwards, the students were treated to pizza compliments of SWEDA.

In this picture, students hear a presentation from instructor Steve McDaniel on welding techniques and the opportunities for welders.



Alltech chief has vision of success for state

This article was written by Tom Eblen - Herald-Leader columnist during the recent "Alltech on the road" series.

Kentucky's potential for success in a global economy might not be obvious to people who have lived here all of their lives.

Pearse Lyons, an Irishman who heads the animal nutrition company Alltech, says he sees it. And he is convinced it can be achieved if Kentucky invests in education, focuses on scientific innovation and markets its brand.

Lyons, who started Alltech in Jessamine County 28 years ago, said Kentucky has some of the same advantages that helped launch Ireland's economy in the 1980s. Both places have about 4 million residents, and their governments and universities are small enough to be accessible.

Lyons thinks Kentucky needs more public-private partnerships to invest in education and innovation. He hopes other companies will join Alltech in funding Margin of Excellence scholarships at the universities of Kentucky and Louisville to attract and retain the bright minds who will create tomorrow's technology.

Earning a Ph.D. degree often requires a student to study for five years while living on a \$20,000 annual university stipend. After graduation, first jobs don't pay much.

"Who in their right mind would do that?" Lyons commented. "Why does Ph.D. have to stand for Poor, Hungry and Driven?"

The Margin of Excellence scholarship provides a \$40,000 annual stipend on top of the university money for up to five years, plus an additional \$10,000 for published research and another \$10,000 if the student stays in Kentucky for three years after graduation.

"We've stepped up and done the first one," which went to UK animal nutrition student Anne Koontz, Lyons said. "We've got a couple of people to step up and do the second and third. What we need is like-minded business people and businesses to step up and say, 'Let's create the single best Ph.D. program in the world. '"

Lyons, whose company operates in 113 countries, said such scholarships could be an inexpensive way for companies to do critical research. "You couldn't hire a technician for \$40,000 a year," he said. "And here you're going to get the brightest and the smartest focusing on your problem. It's a no-brainer."

Technology could allow Kentucky to keep building on traditional strengths, such as agriculture and energy. For example, the horse industry could fund a Ph.D. student interested in figuring out how to capture methane from manure. Coal companies could fund students to study ways to create clean-coal technology by capturing carbon

dioxide.

Despite the economic slump, Lyons thinks this is a good time for companies to invest in the future. For example, he said, Alltech has secured government grants to help build a bio-refinery in Springfield that will create energy from renewable cellulose, such as corn cobs, switch grass and kudzu.

"Let's focus on the problems of Kentucky," he said. "Let's focus on making those problems opportunities."

Good marketing is vital, he said, for a state as well as a company. Lyons thinks Alltech's sponsorship of the 2010 FEI World Equestrian Games will be good for marketing his company - and Kentucky. "It's an incredible opportunity to show Kentucky to the world," he said.

In some ways, Kentucky has a better image abroad than it does in the United States, thanks to such exports as Thoroughbred horses, bourbon whiskey, bluegrass music and what Lyons calls the "super brands" of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Muhammad Ali.

Alltech's International offices are in Nicholasville, KY and they have a production facility in Springfield.

Halloween on Main 2008



2008 has been a wonderful year and Halloween 2008 was no exception. It was probably the largest crowd of ghosts and goblins yet and what an excellent way to welcome Toyotomi America president Mr. Yukihiro Ushiro.

Director's Report

As some see it, we're going to have to weather at least the first quarter before things start to improve much. But when the economy does rebound, Springfield and

Washington County will reap the benefits of the infrastructure work we've already done. We may have another six months of belt tightening but we do see economic growth ahead. Manufacturers are dependent on the national and global economy and the national economy could impact them.

As the U.S. economy falters, job creation is a lagging indicator and commercial real estate is a double lagging indicator. Some economic indicators are currently positive such as falling gas prices and relatively low interest rates. Also, the government is likely to unveil another fiscal stimulus package soon, in the \$100 billion to \$150 billion range. This booster shot may have greater effect than the last \$160 billion package, which hit consumer's pocketbooks simultaneously with skyrocketing oil prices.

The most distressing situation now is the national credit crisis. Once credit starts to flow again, we could see some deals start to come together. The credit situation is hurting expansion. There are still a lot of challenges. Unemployment in Kentucky has increased between 25 and 30 percent since October 2007. During that time, the state lost 30,000 jobs -- half of them in manufacturing. Kentucky's state government shortfall is projected to be about \$456 million in the current fiscal year, although other states are facing more severe cutbacks.

I think it's safe to say the slow economy is being felt in many ways. Many people who are doing well are holding tight, not spending excessively or making investments in their business until they see more people spending money. Our hopes are that the national economy gets back on the right track and the general negativity that we've seen will go away. There is still concern about the automotive sector. We don't anticipate another plant consolidation like Akebono Brake but our area may see more layoffs.

If Washington creates a new multi-billion dollar stimulus program to jump-start the economy, it needs to be something that will put as many people to work and as quickly as possible. We've had problems this year, but as a whole, we've been insulated from a lot of what has happened around the country. The 1970s, which included a major recession in 1973-74, turned out to be one of the most entrepreneurial decades we ever had. Apple, Microsoft and Fed Ex all started in the '70s. We couldn't be better positioned as a community than we are right now.

The New Year could be very exciting in our community. As I ponder on 2009, I still keep coming back to one thought.....I still wouldn't want to be anywhere else but Springfield, Kentucky.

Here's wishing you a Happy New Year!

Hal B. Goode

SWEDA Executive Director