

E-News for the Development Community

. . . an update on community and economic development in Racine County, WI and the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor.



The Roadmap

Racine County Economic Development Corporation
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The RCEDC periodically provides information on economic development in Racine County and the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor. We hope you find this short publication helpful and informative.

New Builder Education Classes

Beginning January 1, 2008 contractors and remodelers need a new credential in order to pull building permits in Wisconsin – the Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification (DCQC).

People who received their Dwelling Contractor Credential after April 11, 2006 must earn 12 credits in order to apply for the new Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification. Along with the application, they must submit proof that they passed a test associated with those 12 credits. A memo issued by the Department of Commerce (DOC) states, "At least one-third of the subject matter identified in the education approval process shall cover subject matters in construction law/business practices and at least one-third in construction codes." For more details on DOC's Dwelling Contractor Certification changes, [click here](#).

If you need to update your credentials, please go to the Wisconsin Builders Association's [website](#) for details on upcoming classes.

Also available is the [2008 Uniform Dwelling Code Training - Knowing It Inside Out](#) schedule for the Spring.

Pandemic Influenza: Protecting your Business and the Community

FREE EVENT!

Friday, April 25, 2008
8:00 A.M. – 10:20 A.M.
Roma Lodge
Racine, WI

-OR-

Friday, April 25, 2008
12:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Hawks View Golf Club
Lake Geneva, WI

Human resource professionals, occupational staff, business managers etc. who have interest in understanding the implications of a possible pandemic and how to set up contingency/ business continuity plans should attend.

For further information please contact:
Stacey Wians, Tri-County Public Health Consortium
(262) 857-1983 or swians@co.kenosha.wi.us.

Future 50 Awards Program

The Future 50 Program recognizes privately-owned companies in the seven county region that have been in business for at least three years and have shown significant revenue and employment growth. The Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) and the Council of Small Business Executives began the Future 50 program in 1980 to recognize the outstanding achievements of local, fast-growing entrepreneurs.

Nominations are accepted through Friday, April 25th. Criteria includes:

- Headquartered in the 7-county region;
- Independent, private ownership (not a subsidiary, franchise, or division);
- Fast growth of sales and employment (averaged over the past three years); and
- In business for at least three years.

[Click here](#) to complete an application.

Wisconsin's plan for energy independence

A recent press release from the [Wisconsin Department of Commerce](#) unveils a plan from the office of energy independence to move Wisconsin forward in its use of renewable energy sources. This plan includes: generating 25 percent of our electricity and 25 percent of the fuels for our cars and trucks from renewable sources by the year 2025; capturing 10 percent of the market share for renewable energy bioproducts, and utilizing Wisconsin's tremendous capability for research to become the country's leader in making alternative energies more affordable and available to all.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Governor Doyle is launching a \$150 million, ten-year grant and loan program to help insure that Wisconsin follows through with its renewable energy plans.

Those interested in applying for loans or grants, [click here for the Energy Independence Fund Fact sheet](#). Important dates to keep in mind are the June 2, 2008 deadline for application submission and the August 2008 target date for award announcements.

In addition, The U.S. Senate passed The Clean Energy Tax Stimulus Act (S.2821), an amendment that would provide a one-year extension of the renewable energy production tax credit and an eight-year extension of the solar energy and fuel cell investment tax credit. The amendment also authorizes \$400 million for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds. It will extend tax credits for those who modify or build energy-efficient homes and commercial buildings, and includes credits for energy efficient appliances such as dishwashers and refrigerators. Technologies that benefit from the renewable energy tax credit are wind, biomass, geothermal, small irrigation power, landfill gas, trash combustion and hydropower facilities, according to [The Atlanta Business Chronicle](#).

Upcoming Events

April 23-24th

New Builder Education Classes

New credentials are required to pull building permits in Wisconsin! Are you ready?

Wed. – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thurs. – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Turtleback Golf, Dining
and Conference Center
Rice Lake, WI

For more information, or to register, go to www.wisbuild.org

April 28th – May 3rd

IS Security Seminar: Hacker Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling

Tools and methods used to break into computer systems, and how to prevent and react to computer attacks.

Sheraton Hotel, Madison

Sponsored by the SANS Institute and
Johnson Financial Group

Instructor: Kevin Bong, Johnson Financial
Group

Contact: kbong@johnsonbank.com for more
information and a discount on registration.

For more information on SANS or the class,
visit <https://www.sans.org>

April 30th - May 1st

WEDA Spring Conference: Developing the Developer

Don't miss this annual two day event!

Jefferson Street Inn
Wausau, WI

For more information, visit
<http://www.weda.org>.

To register, [click here](#). Early bird fee applies
through April 18th.

Venture Capital and Angel Investing in Wisconsin on the right track

Michael S. Rosen, president of Rosen Bioscience Management says he sees an increasing trend in start-up formation within the state over the last 10 years. Mr. Rosen outlines key ingredients to start-ups in this interesting article from the [Wisconsin Technology Network](#).

Scherrer Construction forms development subsidiary

Burlington-based **Scherrer Construction Co. Inc.** recently announced that it has created a subsidiary called **Scherrer Development Group** that will provide development services. Scherrer Development Group will offer development, design and construction services, financing/investment services and property management and leasing. It will operate out of the headquarters of Scherrer Construction in Burlington. **Leslie Scherrer**, the daughter of Scherrer Construction president **Peter Scherrer**, is the development group leader. Read the full article from [Small Business Times - Real Estate Weekly](#).

Wisconsin ranks second in health care in the U.S.

[Journal Sentinel Online](#) – Wisconsin's consistent ranking at the top of all 50 states in the U.S. for health care will continue to be a great asset for attracting business to Wisconsin. The ranking is a part of an annual report by the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#). Highlights to the Wisconsin health care system include strong preventative, acute and chronic care programs.

Congratulations is in order –

Horizon Retail Construction: [Companies honored for supporting Guard](#) – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

RAMAC announces Excellence in Business awards – The Journal Times:

Robert Toeppe, Wisconsin Plating Works of Racine, Inc. – Business Person of the Year

In-Sink-Erator – AIM for Health Award

Alliance Enterprises - Apollo Award

Hi-Liter Graphics LLC – Family Friendly Workplace Award

Jeff McKeown, Express Personnel Services – Young Professional of the Year

Lakeview Pharmacy – Technology Partnership Award

JohnsonDiversey, Inc. – Best new Development or Renovation (Industrial Category), Milwaukee Business Journal, Real Estate Awards

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