A City of Valparaiso Quarterly Newsletter

Valpo Welcomes Businesses

Companies Invest in Valpo, Adding Dollars and Jobs

Ardagh Metal Beverages USA, has announced plans to expand its existing facility in Valparaiso's Montdale Industrial Park, investing approximately \$28 million in renovations and equipment and adding new employees.

The investment in the plant's people and capabilities is a testament to the focus on quality and customer satisfaction by the Ardagh Valparaiso team, according to Claude Marbach, CEO, Ardagh Metal - North America. "We're very proud to increase Valparaiso's production capabilities, further positioning the plant as a worldclass source of innovative, eye-catching tabs and ends," he said.

"Valparaiso is good choice for our expansion for several reasons," said Jeff Kelsey, Property Tax Manager for Ardagh Group. "One is the quality workforce that we've always enjoyed here; another is the convenient location, both for our suppliers and customers, and a third is the nature of our business operations. Valparaiso is the only plant where we make ends for cans. We have seven can plants in the U.S., but all of the ends are made here," he said. Can ends are the light-proof, hermetically sealed tops with tabs which seal cans for beverages and other goods.





With the Valparaiso expansion, Ardagh has expressed plans to add to its Valparaiso workforce of 150, creating 21 new jobs. These are skilled jobs, ranging from supervisory to maintenance tech to purchasing, among other disciplines. In fact, since Ardagh announced the first phase of expansion at the plant in December of 2018, they've added approximately 30 new jobs. The current average salary for an employee at the Ardagh facility is just under \$70,000 per year. The average salary for the 21 new employees will be approximately \$86,000 per year.

"We could not be more pleased that Ardagh has chosen Valparaiso for its local expansion. Their team has proven to be a great addition to Valparaiso and we're looking forward to growing together," said Mayor Matt Murphy.

Ardagh acquired Rexam's Valparaiso facility in 2016 as part of a larger acquisition of Rexam facilities in the United States. Ardagh is a leading supplier of value-added, infinitely

recyclable, metal and glass packaging for the world's leading brands. Ardagh has a global presence, operating 56 metal and glass production facilities in 12 countries, employing more than 16,000 people worldwide.

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Ardagh is currently accepting applications for new positions. "We certainly welcome local residents who wish to apply," said Kelsey. Job seekers can access Ardagh's careers page at https://careers.ardaghgroup.com/go/ Ardagh-Jobs-US/1177101/



THE FORMER ANCO SITE -**JOURNEYMAN ADVANCES**

As to the redevelopment of the former Anco site -- work is ongoing. The transit parking lot improvements are nearing completion. The work is being funded in partnership with the Regional Development Authority and will accommodate multiple parking needs for the area.

Continued on p. 2

Community Improvement Awards

Making Spaces Better

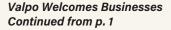
The City of Valparaiso is pleased to be recognized with two Community Improvement Awards this year. Community Improvement Awards recognize businesses and organizations for their commitment and investment in Valparaiso. The City of Valparaiso was recognized for:

Renovation at Valparaiso City Hall, 166 Lincolnway

Last year, Valparaiso's 100-year old City Hall, which began life as the city's post office, was updated to serve the community into the next century. The building and restrooms became more accessible, Council Chambers were updated to allow for more people (and recently updated to allow for live streaming of meetings), spaces were enhanced to make it easier for the public to interact, and enhanced fire safety and security measures were added, along with an elevator.



ValPAWraiso is located on more than two acres, just south of the Parks headquarters on Campbell Street. It includes two separate areas – one for large dogs and one for small. Memberships are required. For information, visit ValpoParks.org.



Less visible is the significant planning work being done by Journeyman and its consultants for the existing buildings. Fortunately, the pandemic has not tempered Journeyman's enthusiasm for the transformative project and residents should expect activity in 2021. Journeyman has chosen Project Management Advisors (PMA), a national project management firm, to oversee the project. Ratio, an international design firm, will provide architectural services. Berglund Construction has been hired as the general contractor.

MORE GOOD NEWS TO COME

"The City has been working to support existing businesses like Ardagh and welcome new enterprises like Journeyman. Our efforts are paying off and we're looking forward to announcing even more positive news in the near future," said Murphy.

Planning Ahead

City Launches Plans and Studies for the Future

In a year when few things have gone as planned, planning for the future has been a priority for the City of Valparaiso. "We're eager to put strategies in action for our community, but also want to make sure that we take the time to gather public input – an interesting challenge during the pandemic," said Mayor Matt Murphy. Here's what's in the works:

THE PARKS MASTER PLAN

Valpo Parks is finalizing a Master Plan, which will identify needs and priorities for Parks properties and programs, identify funding priorities and income streams, and create a plan for accomplishing these goals. There have been a number of opportunities for the community to contribute ideas. A final plan is expected to be presented in December. For further updates and opportunities to review the plan, visit ValpoParks.org and the Valpo Parks Facebook page.

RESIDENTIAL MARKET ANALYSIS

The City has been working with Urban Partners of Philadelphia to complete an inventory of existing housing stock and forecast future needs. The company has experienced several COVID-related delays but will be sharing information with stakeholders and the community in the coming months.

VALPARAISO STRATEGIC PLAN

The City is also launching a process to evaluate Valparaiso's strengths and weaknesses to create a strategy for the coming years, including city projects and services. The City will be announcing opportunities for community engagement in a variety of forums, including online surveys and virtual meetings. Tune in to the city's Facebook page, Valparaiso Now and website at Valpo.us for details.

Neighborhood News

City awards \$132,000 in grants and introduces **HOA Academy**

The City of Valparaiso awarded 16 new grants in the 2020 Neighborhood Improvement Grant program. The grant program was created to encourage neighborhood unity and support community improvements. The projects funded this year include enhanced signage, neighborhood tree plantings, sidewalk improvements, bus stop benches, playground equipment and more. Combined with neighborhood matches, more than \$157,000 will be invested into the community. The neighborhoods receiving grants in 2020 include Audubon Estates, Banta, Beauty Creek Estates, Beauty Creek Villas, Central, College Hill, Essex Park, Forest Park, Hawthorne, Jefferson Park North Townhomes, Jessee-Pifer, Kingsridge, Keystone Commons, Mistwood, Sierra and Windsor Park. To learn more, including how your neighborhood can participate, visit the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us.

AMPLIFY YOUR HOA

The Community Engagement Department, in partnership with City Attorney Patrick Lyp, will be hosting a free Homeowners Academy (HOA) on Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 6 pm to 7 pm. This session will be offered in person and via Zoom for residents who have an interest in learning more about how homeowners associations function, laws and terms associated with HOA's and how to start or regroup an HOA that may have disbanded. To learn more and register, visit the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us.



neighborhood shows off the design he created for the sign toppers, which will soon be installed. The project is being funded through a Neighborhood

Introducing



helping to launch a new

nonprofit organization created to assist qualifying homeowners in maintaining their homes. "Home Team Valpo is a way for the city and others to come together to help families make their homes safer and more comfortable," said Mayor Matt Murphy. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Porter County, Home Team Valpo will be city-inspired and volunteer-driven.

The new nonprofit is seeking homeowners who need work completed, skilled and unskilled workers to volunteer their time, plus financial contributions and donations of new building materials. To learn more and register, visit HomeTeamValpo.org.



Dear Neighbors,

We're doing it, Valparaiso! We're navigating 2020 and setting our sites on a positive future. In this issue of City Talk we share news of businesses that are investing in our community, creating jobs and building a future in our city. We're excited about these commitments and eager to share further exciting details in the weeks ahead.

We're also looking forward to the future in several key plans and studies underway, including a new Parks Master Plan, a new Strategic Plan and an informative Residential Market Analysis. And now, more than ever, we're spending time in our neighborhoods. Not only are we pleased to share news of the latest Neighborhood Improvement Grants, but we're introducing new ways to help strengthen neighborhoods and reward those who are excelling.

This issue also introduces Home Team Valpo, a new nonprofit initiative that's close to my heart. Together with Habitat for Humanity, Home Team Valpo will help lift up families and neighborhoods by assisting people in making their homes safer and more comfortable. We've been working on creating this initiative since I became mayor and I'm very pleased to see people coming together for this worthwhile cause.

It's an unprecedented year and I couldn't be prouder of this city. We keep listening and encouraging people to do their part in taking care of themselves, their families and each other. Together, we got this.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Wursh Matt Murphy, Mayor

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Paving Progress

INDOT grant made improvements go miles further

2020 has been a very good year... when it comes to roadways in Valparaiso. In fact, Valparaiso drivers saw more than 15 miles of paving within city limits this season. "We were very aggressive about pursuing grant funding, which has helped our dollars go miles further," said Mayor Matt Murphy. A dollar-for-dollar Community Crossings grant from the Indiana Department of Transportation supported more than \$1.5 million in paving this season, including the paving of eight streets – more than six miles of roadway.

In addition to the grant-funded projects, the City completed more than 4.5 miles of additional paving throughout neighborhoods and the Indiana Department of Transportation completed a nearly four-mile stretch of US 30 – from Hayes Leonard Road to Industrial Drive.

"We're also particularly glad to see the roadway improvements along Ransom Road with a better surface, better lighting, plus rumble strips and signage. Drivers -- and parents of drivers -- really appreciate the safety improvements," said Murphy. For a complete list of the year's paving projects, visit the Public Works page at Valpo.us.



City of Valparaiso Introduces Good Neighbor Award

The City of Valparaiso has launched a Good Neighbor Recognition program to promote neighborhood involvement and



community service. The Good Neighbor Award will be an annual recognition, highlighting an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to their neighborhood and the greater community through volunteerism and service. "Valparaiso is a very warm and giving community. We so often hear of individuals doing extraordinary things in our community. This Good Neighbor Award is a way to shine a light on these special people," said Mayor Matt Murphy.

NOMINATE SOMEONE FANTASTIC!

Members of the community are invited to nominate individuals who demonstrate their volunteerism and commitment to the community by building a brighter future for Valparaiso. Nominations are due by Nov. 1 for the 2020 award.

The Good Neighbor Award nomination form is available online on the Community Engagement page at Valpo.us.

Neighborhood Note

Be a good neighbor and avoid parking over sidewalks and pathways. Not only does an ordinance prohibit parking over sidewalks and pathways, but your walking, running and stroller-pushing neighbors will thank you.