



Tyler Economic Development Council

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May / June 2008

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
July 30, 2008 3:30
TEDC Board Meeting
Genecov Room

GOODYEAR UPDATE
Senator John Cornyn's office announced on May 2 that EDA in Washington has approved a \$100,000 grant to develop an economic development strategy for dealing with the loss of Goodyear in Tyler. TEDC staff will begin working in June with representatives from the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) at Texas A&M on the development of the plan. Match for the grant has been committed by the Greater Texas Certified Development Corporation (\$25,000) and TEDC (up to \$75,000). Additional match (\$20,000) will be requested from both the City of Tyler and Smith County. In April, TEDC was contacted by a real estate broker in Cleveland, Ohio who was referred to us by Brad Dare, head of real estate for Goodyear. The company representative said a national firm visited the Tyler facility the week of April 7. This is the same company that purchased the 1.2 million sf Goodyear plant in Huntsville, AL several years ago. They put several uses in the facility (distribution, manufacturing, etc.) and it has been 100% occupied. TEDC provided him local contacts to talk about potential users. In May, TEDC was approached about a possible purchase and reuse of the Goodyear facility by an Iowa based company that manufactures abrasives, blasting, painting, safety equipment and supplies for the surface preparation industry.



NATIONAL ELECTRONIC WARRANTIES (NEW) On Thursday May 8, TEDC and TJC hosted a news conference to announce that National Electronic Warranties (NEW) Customer Service, located in Dulles, Virginia, selected Tyler as their national technical customer support call center to troubleshoot problems for DirecTV customers. NEW felt Tyler had a highly skilled workforce that could handle their most advanced training program. The company will hire 120 employees per year for 4 years for a total of 480 employees with a base rate of \$10/hour. The company has contracted with TJC to train employees who will then operate from computers in their homes. Tyler was selected out of an initial list of 200 cities that was shortened to 10 cities (3 in Texas; Tyler, Wichita Falls, & Longview) for site visits.



SEALTITE The Tyler City Council, Smith County Commissioners Court, Tyler Junior College Board, and Smith County Emergency Services District #2 Board have approved tax abatement for a 58,000 sf expansion of the Sealtite Building Fasteners facility on East Commerce. The company plans to invest \$6 million in the building and new production equipment and will hire an additional 30 employees. Current workforce is 99.



DECKER ENERGY Early this year, TEDC was approached by Decker Energy for potential sites along I-20 for a wood burning power plant. Decker has chosen to move forward with permitting a site within the Lindale Industrial Park at the southwest corner of I-20 & Harvey Road. This company is considering a \$100 million project that would produce 'green energy' using wood chips as the raw material. Decker is competing with two other wood chip plants being proposed for Lufkin and Henderson. The Texas Commission for Environmental Quality will only grant one permit. Tom Mullins and Barham Fulmer of TEDC joined 6 representatives of the City of Lindale, the City of Hide-A-Way Lake and the Lindale EDC on a trip to New Bern, NC to tour a Decker Energy plant April 29. The project will create 30 permanent jobs.



DAIGLE AUTOMATION, INC. TEDC is meeting with Eric Daigle, President of Daigle Automation, Inc., located in Flint, regarding a potential expansion. Daigle is an engineering services company that designs, assembles and services electronic control panels for the oil and gas sector, along with the water treatment, manufacturing and food processing industries. They currently have 18 employees and have plans to double in 2 years. They have outgrown their current location and would like to relocate to a larger building, preferably in the southern part of Smith County. Larry Morgan, City Manager for Bullard, hosted the meeting May 5 and indicated a strong interest in using their economic development sales tax to attract Daigle as the first tenant in a new business park they plan to develop. TEDC provided additional information on tax abatement, freeport, and the Smith County Revolving Loan Fund.

FIRST QUARTER COST OF LIVING Tyler's cost of living composite for the first quarter 2008 was 93.6, down from 3rd quarter 2007 (95.0) and in line with the 2007 average of 93.3. Category composites are:

Groceries	91.6	Utilities	104.9	Health Care	95.9
Housing	84.2	Transportation	97.5	Misc. Goods/Svcs	97.9

The most expensive place to live is New York Manhattan at 218.8 and the least expensive place is Joplin, MO at 82.2. Four Texas cities are in the top 10 least expensive—Palestine/Anderson County, Harlingen, Lubbock, and Brownsville. The top ten most expensive places include three in California, five in New York, one in Connecticut, and Honolulu, Hawaii.