

## PLANNED EXPANSIONS TOTAL NEARLY \$60 MILLION

During the second quarter of 2022, Jackson County industries announced expansion plans that total nearly \$60 million. Aisin U.S.A. plans to invest over \$27.5 million at its two Seymour locations, and at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Seymour City Council, company representatives outlined plans to invest \$27,048,150 in personal property and \$485,260 in real property at its locations at 1700 East Fourth Street (Plant 1) and 500 Burkart Boulevard (Plant 2).

The personal property investment will be for new production machinery/equipment related to design change requirements and automotive components used in assemblies shipped and sold to Aisin's customer base for vehicle models such as Toyota models Sienna, Camry, Highlander, Corolla and Avalon, plus Honda Odyssey, Chevrolet, Subaru and Lexus models.

The investments will allow the company to retain its current work force of 1,923 associates and payroll of over \$117.8 million.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, the parent company of The Royal Group announced plans to invest \$7 million in the expansion of the company's East Side Park location and an additional \$3 million in equipment. That investment is expected to create 25 new jobs as well as retaining the company's current workforce of 88 associates.

Approximately 90,000 square feet of space will be constructed to the east side of the property at 2245 Killion Avenue, and 20,000 square feet will be added to the west side of the existing facility.

Kremers Urban (aka Lannett) representatives also appeared at the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to request tax abatement for \$20.6 million in personal property. The investment will allow the company to retain its current workforce of 407 associates.

At an earlier City Council meeting in April, Nippon Steel Pipe America (1515 East Fourth Street at Seymour's East Side Park) announced plans to invest \$1,504,535 in personal property and TDAK Development revealed plans to construct a 30,000 square foot "spec" building at a cost of \$1,550,000 at its location at 2099 East Tipton Street.

Council approved a combination of 5-year and 10-year abatements for all projects and investments.

## GUARDIAN BIKES WILL ESTABLISH U.S. OPERATIONS IN SEYMOUR

Officials for Guardian Bikes have announced plans to establish new operations in Seymour, with distribution already underway and manufacturing to follow later this year.

Sam Markel, vice president of manufacturing and operations for the company, attended meetings of the Seymour Redevelopment Commission and Seymour City Council on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> with Jim Plump, executive director of Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation, to discuss the company's plans.

The project is expected to total nearly \$7 million in investment and employ 100 associates by 2026.

"We are extremely pleased that Guardian selected Seymour-Jackson County," said Plump. "This has been an exciting project to work, and we feel this is a company that will continue to grow."

Guardian Bikes produces "the world's safest children's bikes that are equipped with SureStop, a revolutionary new braking system that allows bikes to stop not only faster, but safer." They offer seven different kids' bikes, which take into consideration children's heights and riding style. (story cont. on next page)



**Mary Winburn and Jody Deckard**

Two dedicated employees of Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation have left the organization. Mary Winburn, left, retired at the end of April following 19 years of service as JCIDC's administrative director. Effective June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jody Deckard announced she would be leaving JCIDC, where she served as Workforce Partnership Coordinator since 2008. "Mary and Jody were outstanding ... they were very passionate about their work," said Jim Plump, executive director of JCIDC. "We truly appreciate their years of service."

## DUKE AWARDS JCIDC MARKETING GRANT

Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation was one of 26 economic development groups that received a grant from Duke Energy to spur new jobs and investment across the state of Indiana.

“Duke Energy is working hand in hand with our local and regional economic development partners to accelerate growth and job creation in the communities we serve,” said Erin Schneider, director of economic development for Duke Energy Indiana, in announcing nearly \$120,000 in strategic grants. “We’re proud to support these organizations, each of which plays a critical role in marketing Indiana’s communities to attract businesses and enhance the quality of life for our customers.”

The funding is through Duke Energy’s Partnership Program, which supports organizations that increase awareness of a community or region’s economic development strategies and product availability. This may include tours and special events to promote business sites and communities; marketing campaigns and pro-motional materials; and website development and updates.

“We will be using these funds to continue our outreach to site consultants by various methods,” said Jim Plump, executive director of JCIDC. “Duke Energy continues to be a great partner and we certainly appreciate their on-going support.”

Since the program was established in 2017, Duke Energy has contributed nearly \$600,000 in grant funding to organizations that are helping create vibrant economies in Indiana.



The Jackson County Chamber of Commerce sponsored an event at Marion-Kay Spices in Brownstown to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the company. Kordell Reid and Pam (Reid) Warren were presented a proclamation from the Indiana House of Representatives commemorating the occasion from House District 73 Rep. J. Davisson (District 73) and Jim Lucas (District 69).

## BK MEDIA SOLUTIONS: NEW JCIDC SUPPORTER

BK Media Solutions is the latest organization to join the supporters of Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation.

“We appreciate the support of Kelly Trask and BK Media,” said Marvin Veatch, JCIDC treasurer and head of the resource development committee, also noting that the organization has nearly 90 different supporters.

## NEW CANADIAN FIRM LOCATES IN SEYMOUR

A company based in Montreal, Quebec has selected Seymour as home for its expansion into the United States market.

MPL USA, Limited will establish production at 2230 D Avenue at Freeman Field, and representatives of the company attended the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of Seymour City Council to request tax abatement on \$770,804 of investment in equipment and machinery.

The Canadian company is a 15-year-old, family-owned establishment with a patented technology for surface treatment. The technology treats magnesium for corrosion protection and will result in the hiring of 11 new employees.

## Guardian Bikes (continued from page 1)

Previously, Guardian Bikes have been manufactured in China, then shipped to the U.S. for inspection and distribution from facilities in Salt Lake City and Memphis. The company had been studying the possibility of moving the entire operation to the U.S.

“For us, it was for the direct to consumer being kind of in the crossroads of America here,” Markel told The Tribune. “It’s a very advantageous area. For shipping costs for us and logistics costs, it’s a really good fit.”

On May 9<sup>th</sup> and on behalf of the company, JCIDC requested a local incentive package which included a loan from the ECLIPSE program (Economic Loan Incentive Program-Seymour) totaling \$100,000 as well as tax abatement for Guardian’s initial \$275,000 investment for equipment and machinery.

In addition, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has offered up to \$1.1 million in EDGE credits (Economic Development for a Growing Economy), and Markel thanked the efforts of Trevor Lane, director of the Southeast Regional for the IEDC.

The company has started operations at an existing building at 2230 D Avenue located at the Freeman Field Airport and Industrial Park while discussions are continuing on other possible locations in the Seymour area.

Brian Riley, CEO of the company, and Kyle Jansen, co-founder, appeared on Shark Tank and received \$500,000 from Mark Cuban for a 15 percent share in the company.

## Students Gain Robotics Knowledge in Camps at Crothersville and Seymour

For the majority of students, school is out and summer vacation has begun. But for some students during the first two weeks of June, the classroom doors were open to robotics. Students at Crothersville and Seymour had the opportunity to attend summer robotic camps.

For Crothersville, this was their inaugural summer for the event and an introduction to robotics for elementary students. With financial support from Aisin Drivetrain Inc., the camp was free to attending students.

“Interim Superintendent Robert Hooker reached out to me earlier this year and asked me if I could help get the ball rolling to bring robotics to Crothersville elementary,” said Jackie Hill, JCIDC Workforce Partnership Director. “There has been a team at the middle school in the past, but COVID really slowed the process and this was an excel-lent way to restart the energy and expand it to the elementary level.”

Elementary Principal Whitney Reinhart was on board and we brought in Shawn Mahoney with Seymour Schools who assisted in helping them set up the agenda, training for the leaders, and loaned them the necessary equipment until they received their own. Reinhart appreciated the assistance Mahoney provided and the collaboration that exists with the county robotics program.

Mahoney also spearheaded week-long camps for elementary and middle school students in Seymour. This was the fifth year for this event. In addition, middle school team leader Amy Miller, held a workshop for incoming freshmen and is excited about having a freshman all girls team for the upcoming competition year. Miller has been heavily engaged in robotics and wants to see the energy and excitement continue for students wanting to compete in high school.

With the addition of Crothersville elementary, there will be 20 elementary, middle and high school VEX and VEX IQ teams in Jackson County ready for the 2022-23 school year.

JCIDC has been a leader and partner for Jackson County robotics. “It is so rewarding to watch these students work as a team to program and operate their robots in the initial stage all the way to the competition level in navigating the VEX challenge for the year,” said Hill. “And along the way, they manage to mix in some fun.”



### Educator Externship Returns For the Summer



Educators participating in the summer Educator Externship listen in as Wayne Brookes of Valeo explains the production process.

After a three year hiatus, the industry doors were open again for educators to spend some time touring this summer. One day a week in June, 10 educators spent time at two different industries touring and interacting with company personnel learning about what happens in these facilities, opportunities available, and the skill set requirements. Educators are required to submit a one or two page report on their experience and how they plan to bring back with they learned to their classroom. Maria Conklin, BCHS Chemistry and Physics teacher, wrote “having toured these industries, I am ready to spread the word about potential work opportunities for my students. I also know that the basic principles that I teach in class like responsibility, accountability, ability to follow directions, and willingness to work hard are all things that the workforce is looking for when they graduate.”

### SEYMOUR OFFERS SUMMER CAREER CLASS

Incoming freshmen at Seymour High School had the opportunity to enroll in a summer career class for four weeks in June. Kelly Reasoner, class instructor, enlisted the assistance of the JCIDC Workforce Partnership with coordinating individuals that were willing to share their expertise with the students. Some, but not all, of the presentations were given from manufacturing, healthcare, finance, and construction trades. Students toured Pet Supplies Plus and also were able to visit skilled trade areas at the high school and heard from companies that partner with these programs the benefits of these educational pathways. Capping off the four weeks was a panel of former Seymour High School graduates who are working in Jackson County whether they entered the workforce immediately after high school graduation or came back following post secondary education. These young people shared their stories and more importantly, answered the question “Why live and work in Jackson County?”

# 2022 Board of Directors

**Kevin Gabbard, President**  
(Royalty Companies)  
**Curt Kovener, V.P.**  
(Town of Crothersville)  
**Kevin Johnson, V.P. Dev.**  
(Ranger Enterprises)  
**Marvin Veatch, Treasurer**  
(Jackson County Bank)  
**Arann Banks, Secretary**  
(Jackson County Visitor Center)  
**Conner Barnette**  
(Brownstown Ewing Main Street)  
**Matt Brown**  
(Indiana American Water)  
**Dan Davis**  
(Community Foundation)

**Ray Eakins**  
(Old National Bank)  
**Chris Engleking**  
(City of Seymour)  
**Eric Fish**  
(Schneck Medical Center)  
**Gregg Goshorn**  
(Brownstown EDA)  
**Dave Hall**  
(Jackson County Council)  
**Brandon Harpe**  
(County School Superintendents)  
**Jeff Lorenzo**  
(Seymour Industrial Corporation)  
**Craig Luedeman**  
(HWC Engineering)

**Drew Markel**  
(County Commissioners)  
**Matt Nicholson**  
(City of Seymour)  
**Chip Orben**  
(Duke Energy)  
**Marilyn Price**  
(Owen County State Bank)  
**Mark Reynolds**  
(Town of Brownstown)  
**Dan Robison**  
(Jackson County Chamber)  
**Katie Sackett**  
(Louisville & Indiana Railroad)  
**John Sadtler**  
(SIHO)

**Roger Stephens**  
(RQAW Corporation)  
**Lonn Stuckwisch**  
(Berkshire Hathaway)  
**Brian Thompson**  
(Seymour Aviation Authority)  
**Mike Weir**  
(Town of Medora)  
**Bruce Wynn**  
(First Financial Bank)  
**JCIDC Staff**  
**Jim Plump**  
**Tammy Hamp**  
**Jackie Hill**

## 2022 Contributors

### Board Level

Berkshire Hathaway  
Brownstown Ewing Main Street  
Brownstown EDA  
Brownstown Town Board  
City of Seymour  
Community Foundation  
County Council  
County Commissioners  
Crothersville Town Board  
Duke Energy  
First Financial Bank  
HWC Engineering  
Indiana America Water  
Jackson County Bank  
Jackson County Chamber  
Louisville & Indiana Railroad  
Medora Town Board  
Old National Bank  
Owen County State Bank  
RQAW Corporation  
Ranger Enterprises LLC  
Royalty Companies  
Schneck Medical Center  
Seymour Aviation Authority  
Seymour Industrial Corp.  
SIHO

### Gold Level

Aisin USA Manufacturing  
Biehle Electric  
CenterPoint/Vectren  
Energy  
DEEM LLC  
FPBH, Inc.  
German American Bank  
Jackson Township Trustee  
Lorenzo Bevers Braman & Connell  
Nippon Steel Pipe America  
SpaceGuard  
The Peoples Bank  
Vernon Township Trustee

### Silver Level

Agresta, Storms & O'Leary  
Aisin Chemical Indiana  
Andersons  
Cerrowire  
Comcast Business  
Cornerstone Environmental  
Dunlap Construction  
Force Construction  
GAI Consultants  
Gaylor Electric  
Goecker Construction  
Harmon Construction  
Jackson County REMC  
King's Trucking  
Lannett Company Inc.

### Silver continued...

Lawyer Excavation  
Metronet  
Milestone  
Millman Realty Partners  
O&k American  
PNC Bank  
Rumpke of Indiana  
State Bank of Medora  
The Tribune

### Bronze Level

B&H Electric  
Blue & Company  
CC ILL Holdings  
Independent Land Survey  
Shelby Materials

### Contributor Level

92.7 WXKU/99.3 WZZB  
Aisin Drivetrain, Inc.  
Dennis & Blish, CPA  
Harrell-Fish Inc.  
Jackson Co. Water Utility  
Midwest Natural Gas  
Mussett Nicholas  
Reedy Financial Group  
Shepherd Insurance

### Workforce

**Partnership**  
Aisin Chemical Indiana  
Aisin Drivetrain, Inc.  
Aisin USA Mfg.  
Brownstown Quality Tool  
Brownstown Schools  
Cerrowire  
City of Seymour  
Community Foundation  
Elwood Staffing  
Excel Manufacturing  
E & H Tubing  
Jackson County Visitor Center  
Jackson County Education Coalition  
Lannett Company Inc.  
Nippon Steel Pipe America  
O&k American  
Particle Dynamics  
R.R. Donnelley  
Schneck Medical Center  
Seymour Community Schools  
Seymour Engine Plant  
The Royal Group  
Wal-Mart Distribution

## Special Event Sponsors

Beatty Insurance  
Berkshire Hathaway  
Duke Energy  
Jackson County REMC

Force Construction  
Harrell-Fish Inc.  
Indiana American Water  
Jackson County Bank

Louisville & Indiana Railroad  
First Financial Bank  
Old National Bank  
Bob Poynter of Seymour

Aisin Companies  
Schneck Medical Center  
SIHO  
Jackson County Visitor Center