

JCIDC
QUARTERLY



Seymour
JACKSON COUNTY INDIANA

Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation

2ND
QUARTER
2025

NEW INVESTMENTS TOTAL MORE THAN \$256 MILLION

Industries in Jackson County announced plans during the second quarter of 2025 that could result in investments of more than \$256 million.

During the June 9 Seymour Common Council meeting, **Vital Farms** announced plans to invest more than \$190 million on its new project at the Eastside Industrial Park in Seymour.

Construction of a \$104 million building and personal property of more than \$86 million was announced by Joe Holland of Vital Farms.

The project, which was first announced last year, will locate on approximately 74 acres at the Eastside Industrial Park, and construction is expected to be underway in the third quarter with completion by the end of 2026.

Eggs from family-owned farms throughout the Midwest will be delivered to the facility, where they will be processed, packaged and shipped.

The company projects hiring 416 workers beginning late next year and into 2027 with total payroll of more than \$26.9 million.

At the same meeting, **MAK Steel Services LLC** was granted tax abatement for new construction on its facility at 1191 King Ave., Seymour.

The company plans to invest \$1.7 million in constructing a 24,000-square-foot expansion, which will allow it to retain the current workforce of 54 employees and add 15 new positions, which will increase payroll by nearly \$1.1 million.

The new facility will be used for steel fabrication and material handling, and new jobs will be a mix of welders, CNC operators, material handlers and office staff. Kyle Elkins, COO of MAK Steel, said the company estimates construction beginning around Oct. 1 of this year with completion by the end of the first quarter of 2027.

On April 28, Cummins announced plans for new investment totaling \$28.4 million, which includes three personal property abatements of \$19,952,806 and \$8,414,557 in two real property abatements at the Seymour Engine Plant. Darren Kimmel, plant manager, said the investments are in support of the Hedgehog, GZ04 and technical center projects, and although no new jobs are promised, the expansion will allow Cummins to retain its current workforce of 921 associates with a payroll of \$74.4 million.

That same evening, **AISIN USA Mfg. Inc.** announced the company is projecting new investment of \$32.9 million at its two locations at the Eastside Industrial Park. Each facility will see one real and personal property investment. The two personal property investments totaled \$32,542,500.

Betsy Cornett, general manager of finance, said the investments will allow the company to upgrade for new Toyota and other OEM models and will allow the retention of nearly 1,800 workers with a payroll of more than \$123 million.

U.S. SBA ADMINISTRATOR VISITS GUARDIAN BIKES



Kelly Loeffler, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, visited Guardian Bikes at its Freeman Field Industrial Park location in Seymour on June 24. Loeffler was appointed to head the agency in February and oversees the SBA programs and execution of its mission to support small business. Brian Riley, right, CEO of Guardian Bikes, gave Loeffler a tour of the company's facility along with Sam Markel, left, vice president of operations. Guardian announced a major expansion late last year that will allow the company to produce frames for its bicycles in Seymour.

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Representatives of **Nippon Steel Pipe America Inc.** attended the April 14 Seymour Common Council meeting to request abatement on a new equipment investment of \$646,000.

Installation of the equipment started in May and is scheduled to be completed by February 2026, said Noriko Taguchi, general manager of business planning.

No new jobs are promised as a result of the investment, but it will allow the company to retain its workforce of 408 workers with a payroll of \$23.9 million.

Three projects were announced in Brownstown during the quarter:

A new 20,250-square-foot building for **Nehrwess USA** is now under construction following approval for tax abatement by the Brownstown Town Council.

Jacob Florine and his wife, Kim, are now third-generation owners of the business, which employs five workers. The new facility, which is estimated to cost \$2 million, is located along State Road 135.

Brownstown Quality Tool and Automation LLC plans the purchase of new equipment valued at more than \$635,000, and **E&H Tubing Inc.** is investing \$250,000 for new logistics equipment.



Following the approval of tax abatement for Vital Farms by the Seymour Common Council, Joe Holland of Vital Farms, second from left, visited with Andy Royalty, Marvin Veatch and Dan Davis.

JCIDC RECEIVES DUKE ENERGY GRANT



JCIDC was one of five economic development organizations in south central Indiana selected by Duke Energy for inclusion in its 2025 Partnership Program, which funds marketing and strategic efforts to attract new jobs and investment to Indiana.

"This program gives our local economic development partners the tools they need to showcase the strengths of their communities, both at home and on the national stage," said Erin Schneider, managing director of economic development at Duke Energy. "It's just one of the many ways we're helping influence growth in the state to build competitive, thriving communities."

JCIDC received \$5,000 from Duke's Partnership Program grant fund, and that will be used to support a wide array of marketing initiatives, including trade show attendance, and presentations or tours to introduce prospective companies and site selectors to a community.

To qualify for program consideration, each applicant submitted a plan that would have a direct impact on their community's economic growth. Grant amounts varied depending on the size and scope of the project.

WELCOME BACK, DEE

Dee Kovener is back with JCIDC.

The Jackson County native was a member of the staff from 1998 to 2001 as Workforce Partnership coordinator. In June of this year, she rejoined the staff in a part-time role to support the activities of JCIDC and the Workforce Partnership.

Dee graduated from Brownstown Central High School in 1980 and earned a degree in organizational management with an emphasis on human resources from Indiana University in 1984. She was employed with Osram Sylvania in Seymour and held various manufacturing management positions. In early 1998, she was hired by RR Donnelley in Seymour and worked in human resources in recruitment of hourly and salaried employees.

Dee and her husband, David, live in Brownstown. They are the parents of two children, Lindsey and Reid, and they have three grandsons.



WALMART GRANT TO BENEFIT GIRLS ROBOTICS



JCIDC received a \$1,000 Spark Good local grant from the Walmart store in Seymour.

This grant will help with the girls robotics workshop that will be conducted in the fall for middle and high school girls involved in the VEX Robotics program at their school. The first Girl Powered Workshop in Jackson County was held in 2024 in Seymour and attended by 31 girls from eight county schools along with female engineers and others from local companies.

CFA STAFFING IS NEWEST PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTOR



JCIDC's Workforce Partnership has gained a new contributor.

CFA Staffing is based in Batesville and also has offices in Seymour and Plainfield. According to cfastaffing.com, Teresa Wade started the company in 1999, providing sub-assembly work for an automotive parts supplier. CFA offers a range of tailored staffing solutions designed to meet business needs.

JCIDC SPONSORS SEYMOUR ROBOTICS CAMP



Whether it's working with small, simple kits or large, complex parts, Seymour Community School Corp. students spent either a couple of days or a whole week immersed in robotics.

Fresh off a recently completed school year, elementary and middle school students had an opportunity to tinker in the world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

For the elementary camp, students could register for one of two two-day sessions, both two and a half hours long. There were 18 kids in each session.

For the middle school camp, students spent five days at camp, two and a half hours each day. There were 18 in that camp.

The elementary camp had students spend one day working with a Tinkering Labs Electric Motors Catalyst Kit and building a robot that doodles, moves or spins. The other day, they worked with an Ozobot, a small programmable robot designed to teach coding through interactive play.

Stepping up to the middle school camp, students first received an introduction to gear ratios and then received an instruction book to build a robot. Once they completed that robot, they moved on to a different kit, each one introducing a new concept. From catapults to merry-go-rounds, they gained an understanding of making a robot move.

JCIDC provided funding to make these camps possible.



EXTERNSHIP GIVES EDUCATORS INSIDE LOOK AT INDUSTRIES



JCIDC offered the Educator Externship to Jackson County school staff this summer.

The first session was June 12. In the morning, educators visited Guardian Bikes. In the afternoon, they toured the Pet Supplies Plus distribution center.

Other dates and locations for the Educator Externship were June 17 at Schneck Medical Center and Dicksons Inc., June 25 at AISIN USA Mfg. Inc. and SpaceGuard Products and July 1 at Walmart Distribution Center and Cummins Seymour Engine Plant.

Educators could choose one date or more than one. At the end, they were required to submit a report that included what they learned and how they will use that information to benefit their students.



COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS ATTEND CAREER COLLEGE TRANSITION FAIR

Nearly 1,800 students from five Jackson County high schools attended JCIDC's annual Career College Transition Fair on April 16 at Seymour High School.

Seymour sent all of its students, from grades 9 to 12, while Brownstown Central, Crothersville, Medora and Trinity Lutheran high schools sent 20 to 40 students each.

Set up in the commons and auxiliary gymnasium, there were more than 50 booths, including education, financial institutions, health care, community services, military, skilled trades, retail and manufacturing.

Each student received a passport and had to go around to at least 10 booths to interact with business professionals and get their passport stamped, and they turned it in for a chance to win prizes provided by JCIDC and several of the booths. Many of the participants also had giveaways and interactive activities.

Nearly 60 students from the Seymour High School 11/12 Jobs for America's Graduates program helped with the event.



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