



# BUSINESSCONNECT

*"Creating an Environment for Investment"*

## City Congratulates Top Workplace Companies in Troy

The City of Troy congratulates the following Troy companies on being recognized as a 2014 Detroit Free Press Top Workplace:

### Large Companies

Residential Home Health and Residential Hospice

Altair Engineering

ExpertCare

United Shore Financial Services

Kelly Services

### Midsize Companies

Secretst, Wardle

### Plex

### Small Companies

Billhighway

Detroit Business Consulting

McGraw Wentworth

Giarmarco Mullins and Horton

Community Housing Network

## City Celebrates Opening of Troy Transit Center



The City of Troy celebrated the Grand Opening of the Troy Multi-Modal Transit Center with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 14. The Transit Center, located at 1201 Doyle Drive, has begun its regular schedule.

Troy Mayor Dane Slater stated, "The Grand Opening of the Troy Transit Center is an exciting moment for our City and region. Increasing our community's connectedness is a priority, and this marks a step in the right direction."

The Troy Multi-Modal Transit Center will offer passenger rail service, as well as regional bus routes and taxi services. As an important regional hub, it will strengthen existing transportation options in the metro Detroit area.

"Amtrak and our passengers depend on engaged communities to provide stations and the new Troy Transit Center is a major improvement for the Amtrak Wolverine Service," said Mark Murphy, the Chicago-based general manager responsible for operating the six daily Amtrak trains to and from Pontiac and Chicago, via Troy, Detroit, Dearborn and Ann Arbor. "With the opening of the Troy Transit Center will come more connections to other transportation modes and a welcoming all-weather place for Amtrak passengers."

The six daily trains from Troy are scheduled as follows:

Chicago Bound: 5:58 am, 10:49 am, 5:53 pm

Pontiac Bound: 2:36 pm, 7:44 pm, 12:49 am

Photo courtesy of Noel Montales.

## Business Spotlight - Recent Business Growth

The City of Troy continues to see positive economic development activity. Examples of recent development activity include the following:

**S&P Data, LLC** - After a thorough site selection process, S&P Data will locate its first Michigan call center facility at **340 E. Big Beaver Road** (formerly occupied by Flagstar operations). S&P Data is a provider of contact center solutions to Fortune 500 companies offering multiple channel support including phone, chat, e-mail and social media channels. The \$4.4 million project is expected to create 421 jobs over three years.

**Unified Business Technologies** - UBT, founded in Troy in 1997, provides manufacturing, engineering, IT, telecommunications, and professional services to federal, state and local government agencies and the private sector. The company has been awarded a new contract by the U.S. Army and plans to expand its operations in the City of Troy. The project will generate a total capital investment of

## National Standard Winners

Cambridge Consulting Group

CareTech Solutions

## Take Your Business to the Next Level

Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is a program for small business owners that links learning to action. Through the program, you will receive the tools and support to develop a customized growth plan that will take your business to the next level. You will also gain practical skills in topics such as negotiation, marketing and employee management that you can immediately put into action. The program, designed by Babson College, the nation's top-ranked entrepreneurship school, is available at no cost to selected applicants.

The program looks for applicants who are passionate about growing their business, creating jobs in their communities and who generally meet these criteria:

- Owner or co-owner of a business
- Business in operation for at least two years
- Business revenues of more than \$100,000 in the most recent fiscal year
- Business with a minimum of two employees (including the owner)

To get the most out of the program, business owners are asked to invest their time to engage in the following:

\$17.2 million and create 171 jobs. Troy was chosen over competing sites in Alabama, Texas, Kentucky and Tennessee. UBT is located at **315 Indusco Court.**

**NS International** - NS International has moved into the old Magna location at **600 Wilshire Drive.** NSI's Grand Opening took place on September 11, 2014. Approximately 175 employees work in the building with continued growth expected.

**DMC Children's Hospital Specialty Center** - The Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new facility, located at **350 W. Big Beaver,** took place on September 18, 2014. The \$42 million, 70,000 square foot project is expected to employ approximately 100 people.

**AkzoNobel** - AkzoNobel will be relocating its North American Automotive & Aerospace Coatings Vehicle Refinishes Headquarters from Georgia to its **1845 Maxwell Street** location in Troy. The project is expected to add about 60 new jobs to the facility when it opens in the spring of 2015.

**Toyoda Gosei** - Toyoda Gosei has announced that it will be expanding its North American Headquarters located at **1400 Stephenson Highway.** The expansion will create approximately 51 jobs and will result in an investment of \$7.9 million. The Troy facility focuses on sales, engineering and administration for its subsidiaries engaged in research and design, and manufacturing operations throughout North America.

**QEK Global Solutions, Inc.** - QEK, a global leader in fleet solutions to the automotive and other industries, has acquired Alternative Automotive Technologies located at **1225 E. Maple Road.** QEK plans to move its headquarters to Troy and invest in the facility and new equipment. As operations ramp up, the location's 45 employees is expected to grow in number.

**Seco Tools North American Headquarters Expansion** - Seco Tools, located at **2805 Bellingham,** specializes in metal cutting for advanced manufacturing. The company recently consolidated an out-of-state facility by adding to its current location in Troy. Seco supplies companies in all industry sectors; including automotive, motor vehicles, heavy equipment – construction/agriculture, aerospace, medical, power generation, oil & gas, mold & die, and general engineering. The new facility will concentrate on custom tooling manufacturing and testing. The firm has been staffing up the facility for the last year, making 20 hires in its technical engineering group.

**Walsh College Expansion** - Walsh College, located at **3838 Livernois,** broke ground for its \$15 million expansion and renovation on September 5, 2014. The project includes a 27,000 s.f. renovation and addition to the original campus. The addition will encompass distinct pavilions with a business-communication focused student success center, a student lounge, and a "one-stop" student services center. Construction is expected to take 18 months. Walsh's student body now totals more than 4,000.

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## City Offers Assistance to Industrial Row



The City of Troy, in partnership with the Troy Chamber of Commerce and Oakland County One Stop Shop Business Center, offered a very special business assistance service to Troy Industrial Row area businesses. Representatives from the City of Troy (Economic Development, Fire, Planning, Building Inspection, and Code Enforcement), the Troy Chamber of Commerce and Oakland County One Stop Shop Business Center held an informational session on October 16 at Ciot.

- Attend a program orientation
- Complete 11 convenient learning sessions
- Participate in out-of-class activities, including completing assignments, attending networking events and business support clinics (approx. 6 – 8 hours per week)
- Create a growth plan over the course of the program

To learn more, visit  
[10ksbdetroit.com](http://10ksbdetroit.com)

or contact: Danielle Love

Economic and Workforce  
Development

Oakland Community College –  
Auburn Hills Campus

[dlllove@oaklandcc.edu](mailto:dlllove@oaklandcc.edu)

248.232.4177

If you would like to launch or grow  
your business in Troy, please  
contact Glenn Lapin, Economic  
Development Specialist,  
248.524.3314 or  
[g.lapin@troymi.gov](mailto:g.lapin@troymi.gov)

The session provided information related to a variety of topics including local zoning, building permit and inspection processes, signs, access to capital, financing programs, small business assistance resources, hiring qualified talent, customer growth and retention, local Chamber resources, and other business development assistance.

The Troy Industrial Row district has a rich mix of creative businesses, a compact area, and strategic location. Many businesses here are growing, and the area is attracting more design oriented companies. The City will continue to provide fast, fair and predictable services and resources to local businesses to help them grow in Troy.

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## Please Keep Sidewalks Clear this Winter

Freezing weather is upon us and for those who use sidewalks to carry out their activities, it is neighborly and safer that sidewalks be clear of snow and ice. Children walking to school, people walking to the store, or those of us simply trying to get some exercise deserve clear sidewalks.

City Code says that building occupants and property owners must clear snow and ice from the public sidewalks adjacent to their property. Snow 2 inches deep or more, and any ice, should be cleared from the sidewalks within 24 hours after they stop accumulating. Some sidewalks are exempt from the clearing requirement.

If you are going away for a period of time, please be a good neighbor and make arrangements to have your sidewalks cleared while you are gone. You can check out the City Sidewalk Code at either the Code Enforcement Department webpage, or the City Code & Charter webpage (Chapter 34, Section 11).

**If you have any questions Please call Zoning and Compliance Specialist Paul Evans at 248.524.3359.**