

Montgomery Economic Development Corporation

SUPPORTS

LOCAL BUSINESSES

While the general economy continues to struggle, you would not know it after spending some time talking to the Montgomery Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Executive Director Charlene Coulombe-Fiore.

"The organization, (MEDC) celebrated its 10-year anniversary this year, and we are extremely happy about that," Coulombe-Fiore said.

She said the MEDC's success is largely due to the group's Executive Partners—Caterpillar, Engineering Enterprises, Inc., Gusto Packing Co., Butterball, Rush-Copley Medical, Montgomery Chiropractic and most importantly, the Village of Montgomery.

"We also have a great deal of support from the entire business community," she said. "Our members include many of the larger employers, such as Performance Foodservice, VVF Illinois Services, several financial institutions and many other businesses of all kinds."

The MEDC is a nonprofit organization that is "a one-stop shop for development and services," she explained. The group is solely focused on supporting local businesses, by both helping current businesses and future ones that hope to open in the community.

The group does so by serving as a liaison to a variety of organizations, all with the

idea of supporting the local business community. The MEDC connects with the Village of Montgomery, its committees, staff and elected officials. It works with local educational institutions, as well as local employers on fulfilling their training needs and demands.

Coulombe-Fiore works with brokers, Realtors and developers, and helps connect entrepreneurs with local land, retail and industrial inventory.

"Our goal is to keep our growing businesses in the community," she said. "It has been a pretty exciting year for us."

Performance Foodservice purchased Fox River Foods late last year and is currently expanding again. Butterball purchased Gusto Packing and also is expanding and adding a "turkey" line to their current operations.

"We are so very proud of these businesses and the strength of our labor pool," Coulombe-Fiore said.

The MEDC works on a larger and local scale as well. It has a Business Climate Enhancement Committee (BCEC) that works on regional issues, such as rules and regulations, transportation issues, lobbying, and addressing the support of development and ordinances that will aid local community efforts.

"The Village of Montgomery and the residents and business leaders work together to make this community what it is. Each year, things just get better and better," she said.

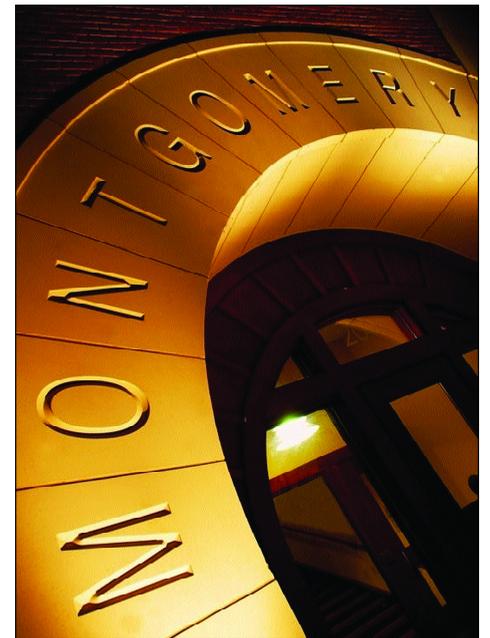
Recognizing the MEDC's hard work, the Village Board recently increased MEDC's budget. As Trustee Steve Jungermann said, "They are our partner. Their whole goal is to help Montgomery grow and be a better place to bring business."

While success requires a vast amount of effort, the amount of effort requires a deep-seated sense of care for the community.

"We care about our business community," Coulombe-Fiore said of the MEDC and the Village of Montgomery core philosophy. "We have a how can we get it done for you" attitude. We also have great leaders and a team that works together."

All the pieces, put together, form a foundation designed to further the underlying goal of the MEDC and the village.

"Our goal is to continue to create and serve the community with the business and professional practices we can, bringing new jobs to the area, so our residents can work close to home," Coulombe-Fiore said. "We want our businesses to succeed, and we will do what we can to bring that philosophy home."



**Montgomery
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"I have lived and worked in seven different states, and I have never had a warmer welcome than I have felt from the Village of Montgomery and the community."

—Bob McGuigan
President, Performance Foodservice

Performance Foodservice specializes in serving restaurants, hotels, schools and hospitals. As one of Montgomery's largest employers, they are growing, and looking to hire.



Butterball recently purchased Gusto Packing and is expanding and adding a line of turkey products to local operations. About 70 additional workers are expected to be hired.



The new 136,085-square-foot Sam's Club broke ground in Montgomery in September, and David Howat of Inland Midwest Development Corp. reports it is expected to open in the spring. "It is indeed an exciting time for Montgomery and we are looking forward to filling the adjacent properties with sit-down restaurants and other retail shops. With Naperville and Oswego and Aurora as neighbors, any retailer is sure to be a hit," Howat commented.

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