

Report: Over 1,000 jobs gained or saved by IDA programs last year

By Colin Hogan

In its recently released annual report for the 2013-14 fiscal year, the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency says its efforts helped to add or retain more than 1,000 local jobs during that time.

The report, which was recently presented to the county legislature's Economic Development and Planning Committee, provided an account of the agency's activities from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. Over the course of the year, the IDA supported 30 projects that have, or will, invest more than \$264 million within the county, this report shows.

Agency officials say these projects are expected to create 672 new jobs, and retain 372 existing positions locally over the next three years.

"While facilitating more than a quarter billion dollars of investment is impressive, we are most proud of the large number of jobs retained or created in Oswego County," said L. Michael Tread-

well, the agency's chief executive officer, in a statement. "Over 1,000 jobs will exist in Oswego County because of the IDA's efforts over this one-year period."

The 2013-14 year marked the highest number of jobs added or retained through IDA efforts in more than a decade. Previous annual reports

the last fiscal year included the Housing and Urban Development Economic Development Fund which supported two projects, the USDA Intermediary Relending Program Economic Development Fund which supported one project, and the COIDA General Economic Development Fund which supported two projects.

IDA programs assisted companies in 11 Oswego County towns, as well as the cities of Fulton and Oswego, and more than half of the projects supported were in the manufacturing field. The report shows notable job growth at manufacturers like Novelis (90 new jobs), K&N's Foods (183 new jobs), Felix Shoeller (101 new jobs), Huhtamaki (25 new jobs) and Design Concepts and Enterprises (40 new jobs) as a result of IDA assistance.

Other industry sectors served included transportation, warehousing, retail, services, commercial housing, research and development, healthcare, tourism/recreation and distribution.

nesses looking to move to, stay in or expand within Oswego County.

IDA officials say the program has been "highly successful" since it was first launched in 1994. During the last fiscal year, it supported 15 projects which are expected to create 385 jobs and retain another 153, according to the report.

"Whether it is the 183 jobs to be created at K&N's Food USA in Fulton or the three positions retained at the Fulton Animal Hospital, the PILOT Economic Development Fund program is a proven tool that creates jobs in Oswego County," Treadwell stated.

The agency also supported 15 projects through its Straight Lease Transaction program, which provides financial assistance to companies through a variety of tax exemptions. According to the report, this program helped in the creation of 383 jobs and the retention of 289.

Other assistance programs utilized during

OSWEGO COUNTY

Report: 2013-2014 a strong year for county IDA

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The report, which was presented to the county legislature's Economic Development and Planning Committee earlier this year, provided an account of the agency's activities from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. Over the course of the year, the IDA supported 30 projects that have, or will, invest more than \$264 million within the county, the report shows.

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The 2013-14 year marked the highest number of jobs added or retained through IDA efforts in more than a decade. Previous annual reports show that the agency helped add or preserve totals of 389 jobs in 2011-12, 567 in 2010-11; 445 in 2009-10; 400 in 2008-09; 393 in 2007-08; 295 in 2006-07; 542 in 2005-06 and 395 in 2004-05.

The agency provided help to local businesses through five of its nine financial assistance programs during the last fiscal year. One of the most utilized programs over that time was the PILOT Economic Development Fund, which uses income from local Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreements to provide loans to businesses looking to move to, stay in or expand within Oswego County.

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