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WisconnValley Website

A new website has been created to provide updates on Foxconn Technology Group's \$10 billion investment in Wisconsin. The website includes:

- An overview of the Foxconn project
- Details on the Wisconsin Supply Chain Marketplace, which lets companies wanting to do business with Foxconn register to connect to the company
- Sign up to be notified of bidding opportunities for both the public infrastructure construction and with M+W | Gilbane for construction of the Science & Technology Park
- Construction updates on the project itself, along with nearby roads and highways
- Sign-up for the Wisconn Valley News e-newsletter

Broadband News

On April 12th, Governor Walker announced 46 new broadband expansion grant projects totaling \$7.68 million in preliminary awards.

Governor Walker also announced an additional round of broadband grants, totaling roughly \$7 million. Applications are due back to the PSC by July 16, 2018. For additional information, interested communities and providers should visit the web page for the Wisconsin Broadband Office.

Wisconsin Main Street To Host Workshops on Merchandising & Transition Planning

Retail Merchandising

Spring is a great time to spruce up your look! Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and Wisconsin Main Street program are hosting a series of workshops that will provide retailers with tips on how to design attractive storefronts and interior spaces. Learn about successful strategies regarding color,

placement, layout, and grouping of merchandise to help retail businesses maximize sales. Dates and locations:

- April 19 in Ellsworth
- April 20 in Menomonie
- April 25 in Marshfield
- April 26 in Wausau

Business Transition Planning

Regardless of size and age of ownership, having a succession plan is the best way to ensure the longevity of your business and safeguard retirement plans. This course covers the basics of planning for the future, including guidance for positioning your business for sale or preparing for internal transition. Dates and locations:

- May 3 in Ladysmith
- May 4 in Stevens Point
- May 22 in Reedsburg
- May 22 in Waterloo

More information on the Main Street Program and all workshops is available at www.facebook.com/pg/WisconsinMainStreet/events.

Anglers – Make It Your Best Season Ever!

Anglers planning their fishing trips for the general hook and line fishing season that opens May 5 can get a line on where to go in 2018 in [The Wisconsin Fishing Report](#). The publication is available online and in hard copy at DNR service centers.

It's full of useful information and "where to fish" recommendations from fisheries biologists from around the state. Great resource for every day of the fishing season!

2018 Governor's Northern Summit

This annual event will be held in Minocqua in October. Watch for a special email in late May announcing community roundtables to gather input.

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Wisconsin's First Elk Hunt!

Following more than 22 years of elk management and reintroduction efforts, 2018 will mark Wisconsin's first managed elk hunt in state history. Get the full story by watching [this video](#).

Only Wisconsin residents are eligible to purchase an elk tag. The application fee is \$10 and applications will be available starting May 1 through the Go WILD system at GoWild.wi.gov For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov and search keyword "elk."

EAB Quarantine Cuts Regulatory Requirements for Wood Industry

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has placed the entire state of Wisconsin under quarantine for emerald ash borer (EAB), effective March 30.

Until now, quarantines have been imposed county by county, until 48 of the 72 counties were quarantined. Under that system, businesses handling ash wood, untreated ash products and hardwood firewood had to sign agreements specifying how they would reduce the risk of moving EAB into non-quarantined areas. With all 72 counties quarantined, those products can move freely within the state during the entire year.

This [DATCP webpage](#) has information about emerald ash borer identification, locations, management, laws and much more. The information is for homeowners, community leaders, green industry professionals, scientists, and anyone who enjoys the outdoors.

Chambers & EDCs – Please Share!

Employers – Beef Up Your Talent Pipeline

Have you ever considered hiring a college intern? Studies show the value of internships in attracting, training and retaining college students during and after graduation. And [WisConnect](#) makes it easy to get started.

Employers can register on the free [WisConnect website](#) sponsored by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Create an employer profile, browse for college intern talent, or post your company's internship positions. New to this internship concept? Click on the "Employer Resources" box to learn how to get started.

Attention Building Contractors & Municipalities with Delegated Authority

Wis. Commercial Building Code is Awaiting Publication

The effective date for the updated rules will be May 1, 2018. Commercial building plans submitted on or after May 1st, 2018 will need to comply with the updated rules. The rules can be accessed on this Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) [webpage](#).

Continuing Education for the Trades

Plumbers, Certified Soil Testers, Electricians, Builders and more—information on your continuing education opportunities is available on this [DSPS webpage](#).

Department of Revenue Works to Find Owners of Unclaimed Property

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) has managed the unclaimed property program since 2013 and has returned more than \$128 million in unclaimed property.

Unclaimed property includes funds from savings or checking accounts, uncashed dividends, insurance policies, or other accounts that the owner may have forgotten. Institutions such as banks, credit unions, insurance companies and other businesses are required to report unclaimed property to DOR each year by November 1. DOR then holds the property for safe keeping until it is claimed by the owner.

In 2015, DOR began using state tax data to locate owners of unclaimed property. This matching program makes the process more efficient and benefits residents not aware they have unclaimed property.

Visit the Department of Revenue's [Unclaimed Property webpage](#) for more information about the program. An online database allows you to search for unclaimed property in Wisconsin.

State Law Prohibits Drivers From Using Hand-Held Cell Phones In Work Zones

With the state's highway construction season getting started, the Wisconsin State Patrol reminds motorists that state law prohibits drivers from using a hand-held mobile device in a Wisconsin work zone. Violators face fines of up to \$40 for a first offense and up to \$100 for subsequent offenses. There is an exception to report an emergency.

About the Northern Office

The Northern Office serves as a connection point between communities in Northern Wisconsin and the resources of state government. If you are looking for information, have a suggestion, or need assistance with problem resolution with a state agency, please contact us. We travel throughout the 40 county region north of U.S. Highway 10 and can be available, with 3 to 4 weeks notice, to attend your meetings and events. Keep in touch!