

# The Noon News

October 5, 2009

Published



Waterloo Exchange Club

**Cedar Valley TechWorks**—Cary Darrah, general manager of Cedar Valley TechWorks stopped by to give us an update on this new project. Ms. Darrah began her tenure with the TechWorks in 2007, having served previously as the Director of Community Main Street in Cedar Falls. TechWorks is being implemented on the former John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works site along Westfield Avenue. In 2000, Deere & Company announced a plan to concentrate manufacturing at the Westfield site, which was located in several areas around the old site, into a single facility along River Road. This move freed up approximately 2 million square feet of manufacturing space on 40 acres of land.



Cary Darrah, Cedar Valley TechWorks G.M.

Deere executives, along with Cedar Valley government and other business leaders partnered to develop an exciting use for the site. Their vision for the site is a place where agricultural products can be developed into innovative uses along with the tradition uses of simply food or fiber. Cary mentioned lubricants and plastics as two types of products being given strong emphasis currently.

Deere & Co. donated the land, buildings and approximately \$10 million to renovate the site. The project is organized as a separate entity, with its own Board of Directors, under the auspices of the Greater Cedar Valley Alliance since 2006. The Greater Cedar Valley Alliance is a consortium of local governments focused on expanding and diversifying the economies of the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area. So, the TechWorks is a perfect fit in that.

Cary told us about the current plan to consolidate the 40 acre site into a 20 acre site utilizing 300,000 square feet of space in two Tractor Works buildings that are in good condition for further use, with provisions for constructing several new buildings in the future.

The implementation plan consists of three phases. Phase 1 is a Technology Center being implemented in Deere's old 'R' building. The intent of this phase is growing the market for bio-based products. Lubricants and plastics are the most active applications currently. U.N.I.'s Ag Based Lubricants program will be relocated here in early November. Considerable work is being done to develop a Polymer Compounding and Testing Laboratory to facilitate the development of plastic applications.

Phase 2 is an AgriTech Exhibition Center where green/sustainable agriculture technologies will be developed and demonstrated.

Phase 3 is a manufacturing cluster where new businesses looking to develop in biotech and bioenergy markets will have office and manufacturing space. Cary explained that this phase may be initiated before Phase 2.

What a great project... So much potential. We wish them great success.

## NEXT MEETING LOGISTICS

**Program:** Closed Business Meeting  
**Prayer :** Ivan Miller  
**Pledge :** Pat Cole  
**Menu :** TBA

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**Oct 12:** Closed Business Meeting  
**Oct 19:** Firefighter of the Year  
**Oct 26:** Capt Kies, U.S. Navy  
**Nov 02:** Jerry Anders, That Dam Update  
**Nov 09:** Waterloo Schools Strategic Plan

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

**Oct 12:** TBA  
**Oct 19:** TBA  
**Oct 26:** TBA  
**Nov 02:** TBA  
**Nov 09:** TBA  
**Order Chef Salad one week in advance**

## BIRTHDAYS

**Oct 07:** Barb Moine

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

*"Age is mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter."* Satchel Paige

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**Messages from Sandy Kline**—Sandy asks the members of the Sunshine Special Committee to meet after the regular club meeting next Monday.

She also asks any member that does not have the Membership Directory version dated 08Aug09 to contact her.

**Family concerns**—Larry Bjortomt's son is still hospitalized in Colorado Springs, CO after suffering several heart attacks and a stroke. The outlook is reportedly not good for this 45 year old young man. Let's keep Larry and Vicky and all the family in our thoughts and prayers.

Roger Shook and Bob Briden continue to deal with serious health issues, too. These dear friends and their families need our thoughts and prayers also.

**Guests**— No guests this week.

Over the past several weeks we have had several guests. Jackie Kugler invited Laurel Lees-Gonzales on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Craig White, Scott Jordan, Tim Jamison Rochelle Brown and Regina Urich were on hand to hear mayoral candidates Steve Schmidt, Reggie Schmidt and Buck Clark make their cases during the Candidate Forum.

On Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, Michael Davidson, Don Heath and Michael Watson from the Cedar Falls Exchange Club were on hand to announce the Toys for Tots and Cedar Valley Food Bank raffle. Ann Woods also stopped by for lunch that day. Bob Tyson from the Family and Children's Council was our speaker. He explained several F.C.C. programs for dads and young mothers.

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