

Ask the Young Professional

Q. What are the benefits of being in a professional organization?



A. “Professional organizations are great sources of networking, career development and support. Being active in a professional organization provides you with an opportunity to develop leadership skills. Plus, you meet a lot of great people, help a lot of great people and get to have some fun, too.”

– **Shanna Graykowski**, Commercial Lender, US Bank



A. “Involvement in professional organizations provides opportunities to build your reputation, advance your career and network. They provide a meaningful way to serve your profession and enhance your leadership skills. The more you learn about the latest methods in your field, the better equipped you are to further your cause.”

– **Crystal Heckel**, development specialist, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College



A. “Working every day to help people find good jobs is extremely difficult these days. Being involved with Current helps me make great connections with area employers who understand that we’re all (young professionals) in this together. It’s our teamwork that is building a better future for us all and for our communities.”

– **Scott Krug**, president, employment and training Specialist, NEW Opportunities



A. “One of the main benefits is the networking opportunities. If you have ever heard the statement, ‘It’s all about who you know’ then you understand the importance of networking. With upward of 75 percent of jobs being unadvertised, it is essential to have strong networking skills and a professional organization is a great opportunity to exercise your ability to network.”

– **Mandy Nycz**, assistant director, Career Services, St. Norbert College



A. “An obvious benefit is networking. By joining a professional organization you immediately have access to other professionals, both inside and outside of your industry. When attending events and interacting with others you can gain a wealth of knowledge and discover other opportunities that otherwise might not be experienced.”

– **Ben Strenski**, graphic designer, Arketype, Inc.

Answers are from members of the Current Young Professionals Network, a Green Bay Chamber of Commerce program designed to facilitate professional and personal growth among young professionals.

OPINION

City moving in right direction

No one has to be reminded that the nation’s economy is in the dumpster and the road to recovery will be a long one.

However, that didn’t deter Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt from presenting a somewhat glowing report on where the city stands in the midst of that economic mess. He said Green Bay is on a roll, and he sees that extending well into 2010.

Schmitt was at the helm delivering his sixth annual State of the City address at the Meyer Theatre recently. It was a good news report coming at a time he described as “unprecedented challenging. Despite that, I am more optimistic than ever.”

Looking ahead, Schmitt vowed to hold the line on taxes, stating he will ask the City Council to keep any tax increase in 2010 under two percent.

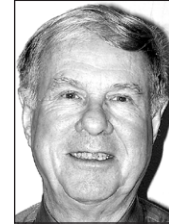
He spoke strongly on several key developments.

Construction is resuming on the City Deck, a \$12 million project along the east side of the Fox River between the Walnut and Main street bridges. Calling this “an urban greenway,” Schmitt said the landscaping side should be completed this year with the final work in the waterway scheduled for next year. “This waterfront will become one of our most valuable resources,” he said.

This area has been described as being a site that will bring people to the downtown area throughout the year. None of the cost is coming from taxpayers

Despite the usual three no votes on the City Council, financing has been approved to move ahead with the long-awaited development of the former Younkers

HARRY MAIER



Department Store site. The vote was 9-3 on the Council, which Schmitt said “is unanimous.”

The project will include construction of the Children’s Museum of Green Bay at the corner of Pine and North Washington, a two-story parking facility over the museum, Hagemeyer Park restaurant, office and retail space and condominiums. With the help of Calumet County Bank in Brillion, financing should be in place shortly and construction could begin in May.

A year ago, Schmitt said one of his goals was to attract three major businesses to Green Bay. That was reached, he said, with the opening of ACE Marine, an arm of Marinette Marine Corp., which will build boats for the U.S. Coast Guard; Greenwood Fuels, which will recycle thousands of tons of paper sludge that otherwise would have gone into landfills, into energy pellets, and the film industry, which brought 100 jobs to the area in the production of films for Hollywood.

One of the largest projects in recent years has been the construction of a remediation facility that will dredge and process sediment from a 13-mile stretch of the Fox River. Built at a cost of \$100 million, a 250,000-square-foot building just north of the Georgia Pacific plant is expected to begin operating by May 1.

The total project will top \$600 million.

Green Bay will continue to focus on its business parks which Schmitt said “are poised for growth.” The new University Heights Commerce Park on the northeast side, has the capacity to generate \$50 million in new tax base and hundreds of jobs during the next several years.

Business parks can be successful. The I-43 Business Center, which opened 20 years ago, currently has companies employing 4,000 people with an increased tax base of more than \$350 million.

Last year, the value of new construction in the city was the highest since 2004 and 38 percent greater than 2007.

The bottom line for all this is people. Schmitt made it clear that a strong and vibrant community can only be achieved with building strong, healthy families. This past year another five neighborhood associations were formed, brining the total to 30. Schmitt has taken a pro-active approach toward the development of neighborhoods. Good neighborhoods can develop positive community action.

Good healthcare is part of that. Last year, more than \$60 million was spent to improve health-related facilities. Green Bay is recognized as a regional healthcare hub.

Plans are under way for the first of what will become an annual kids’ day at Colburn Park, Thursday night family movies will begin at Bay Beach and Thursday night concerts on the Fox will start in July. The seventh annual Kids’ Day will be held at Lambeau Field. Last year, it attracted more than 7,000 youngsters.

Schmitt wants Green Bay to be a great place to live, work and play. The city seems to be moving in that direction.

THE BUSINESS NEWS

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