



Current FACts
FAC News to Use
May 14, 2015

Spotlight:
Major Plant Investment
Announced for Iconic Corvette

All the Corvettes in the world are made in Bowling Green, Kentucky and GM officials just announced a major expansion at the assembly plant.

Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen joined General Motors' leaders and community officials to announce that GM will invest \$439 million for facility upgrades, including a new paint shop. The 450,000-square-foot facility will be almost half the size of the company's entire operation in Warren County.



"For more than three decades, Kentucky and General Motors have shared a deep connection," said Gov. Steve Beshear. "This expansion only makes the relationship stronger and will create a foundation for future growth. I want to

thank GM for its continued investment in the Commonwealth, and I look forward to Kentucky being home to the Corvette for generations to come."

"The Corvette is one of Kentucky's most-cherished icons," said Lt. Gov. Luallen. "Such a significant expansion of the Bowling Green Assembly Plant will help the company remain competitive in the region and around the world."

The paint shop will receive substantial upgrades in technology, including new tooling, robots and state-of-the-art environmental and efficiency enhancements. Construction is planned to begin this summer and is expected to take approximately two years to complete. Vehicle production schedules will be unaffected by the construction.

"With this major technology investment, we can



Rain Barrel Workshop Participants Soak It Up!

Submitted by Melissa H. Johnstone, Office of Processing & Enforcement, Dept. of Revenue

Amy Sohner (pictured right), Executive Director of Bluegrass Greensource, a non-profit environmental education organization serving Central Kentucky, demonstrated how to construct a rain barrel and discussed the benefits of harvesting rooftop rainwater runoff during an event at the State Office Building on May 7, 2015.



Ms. Sohner explained how collected rainwater runoff may be used throughout the landscape and in



Nearly 30 people participated in the workshop

gardens. However, the ultimate goal of capturing rainwater runoff is to slow it down and redirect it based on individual situations and environments in

order to reduce storm water pollution. Impurities and chemicals found in rainwater may be filtered out by slowing down the runoff and allowing the water to seep into the ground in the areas where the rain is deposited. Rainwater runoff may also be directed to natural wetlands and rain gardens – an added benefit to the local, regional and global environments.

Congrats to Jim Oliver, Director of the Division of Miscellaneous Tax, for winning the rain barrel give away.

continue to exceed the expectations of sports car buyers for years to come," said North American Manufacturing Manager Arvin Jones.

This latest investment builds on approximately \$135 million invested in the plant over the last four years for the new seventh-generation Corvette and Performance Build Center.

GM began production of the Corvette at the Bowling Green plant in 1981, and the facility has remained the exclusive home of the Corvette for over 30 years. Known around the world as America's sports car, the Corvette is the world's longest-running, continuously produced passenger car with more than 1.6 million assembled.

Since the launch of the all-new 2014 Stingray, the car has experienced one success after another. Corvette sales reached 38,000 last year, and the plant hit a record year for public tours in 2014, welcoming almost 56,000 visitors from around the world.

World's First Beep Baseball Park to Open in Frankfort

*People with low to no vision can play
America's favorite past time*

Beep Baseball Kentucky is excited to announce the opening of the **WORLD'S FIRST BLIND BASEBALL PARK** on May 22, at 1p.m. at the Panther Athletic Complex in Frankfort.



Beep Baseball Kentucky Grand Opening

The ribbon cutting will be at 1p.m. with a celebrity game following.

The Bluegrass Invitational Tournament is May 23-24 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Teams in the tournament include:

Austin Blackhawks
Athens Timberwolves
Atlanta Eclipse
Columbus Midnight Stars
Colorado Storm
Indy Thunder
RHI X-Treme
BCS Outlaws

Legislative Update

While the Kentucky General Assembly session is over for 2015, agencies are always gathering information and providing research in regards to proposed legislation or recently enacted legislation.

As always, if you are contacted directly by a legislator or staff, please let Gary Morris know. He continues his role as the Finance Cabinet's legislative liaison. This will help the cabinet ensure that information is consistent and provided in a timely manner.

**Happy
Memorial
Day!**



PERSONNEL MOVES

Sam Ruth recently left his position as commissioner of the Dept. for Facilities and Support Services. He is now the Director of Operations for the Kentucky State Fair Board and will have direct responsibility for event services, maintenance, grounds, and oversee all building and grounds projects for the Kentucky Exposition Center. KEC is the sixth largest exposition facility in the U.S., and hosts some of the nation's largest tradeshows and conventions. As Director of Operations, Sam will also be involved with the expansion of the Kentucky International Convention Center which will begin in August, 2016 and be completed in August, 2018. He replaces Michael Sausman who retired.

Kentucky Exports Up 11 Percent in 2015, Ranks 3rd in the Nation

While national exports are down 5 percent from this time last year, Kentucky's products continue to thrive in the global market.

Through the first quarter of 2015, Kentucky's exports were 11 percent higher than a year ago, ranking the state third in the nation for year-over-year export growth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, aside from Missouri, no other state bordering Kentucky placed in the top 10.

"While other parts of the country are seeing a decline in exports, Kentucky is shipping products around the world more than ever," said Secretary Larry Hayes of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. "This is another strong sign that Kentucky's economy is strong and continues to grow."



During the first quarter, the Commonwealth exported more than \$7 billion in products, up from \$6.4 billion during the same time last year. Top trade partners include Canada, the United Kingdom, Mexico and France. Exports to Eastern Europe rose significantly. Kentucky exports to Belgium

were up 116 percent and to Russia nearly 2,400 percent.

Aerospace continues to be Kentucky's largest export, but the beginning of 2015 was particularly strong for motor vehicles and parts (up 28 percent), chemicals (up 66 percent) and engines, turbines and power equipment (up 47 percent). The export of cattle was up 3,400 percent.

To boost Kentucky's exports, the state launched the Kentucky Export Initiative (KEI) in 2010. KEI brings together agencies and organizations to help facilitate international trade opportunities for Kentucky businesses. Since KEI's inception, Kentucky's exports have grown by more than 42 percent.