
Rockford Area Economic Development Council

Hälsningar

från Rockford, Illinois, USA Global Partners Build Local Wealth

The RAEDC is a proud member of Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce/Chicago



Spring 2008 HALSNINGAR

Spring Is On The Way!

A friendly springtime greeting to our friends in Sweden. We hope you had a good Långfredagen and Påskdagen.

We also hope that you will enjoy this Hälsningar e-newsletter, as it brings you news about how Sweden and the Rockford region are strengthening our ties of friendship.

The #1 Japanese garden in North America is Rockford's Anderson Japanese Garden.



Welcome to Lidköping Delegation!

Rockford looks forward to welcoming another delegation from Lidköping to Rockford this month. On April 10, 4 representatives from Lidköping will arrive, with 3 more joining the group over the weekend. Beginning April 12, 13 high-school vocational students will join the adults. Our visitors will stay in Rockford until April 20.

The purpose of the delegation's visit is to expand upon the Industrial Partnership Agreement signed between the cities of Lidköping and Rockford during Rockford's 2006 trade mission to Sweden. The agreement formalizes a collaboration for mutual benefit through innovation, entrepreneurship and direct personal contact.

Participating in the delegation will be:

Kjell Hedvall, Mayor
City of Lidköping

Mikael Sundvig, Business Development Director
City of Lidköping

Dennis Gustavsson
Industrial Program Teacher
De la Gardie High School

Conny Jakobsson
Industrial Program Teacher
De la Gardie High School

Johnny Fröjd
Chairman of the School Board of Education

Johan Linden
Second Chairman of School Board of Education

Jan Fransson
Director of the School Board

As part of their visit, the group will meet with educational and municipal representatives in the Rockford area, visit schools and companies as well as participate in forums to exchange ideas.



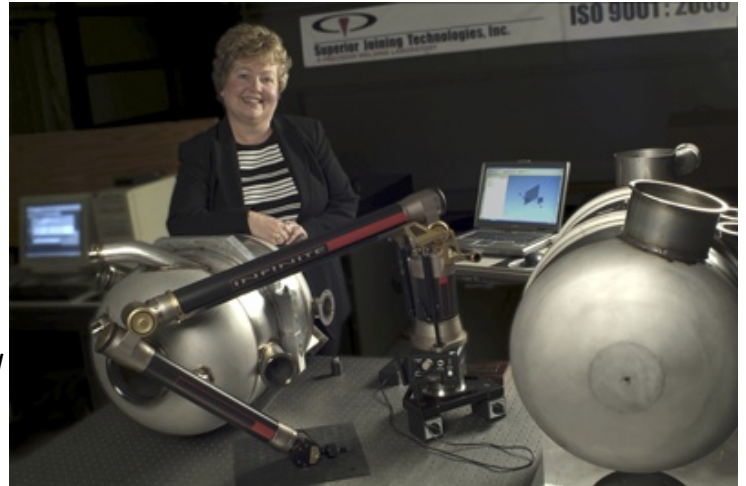
Rockford's City Hall

Lidköping Students Visit Rockford to Learn About U.S. Manufacturing

An important part of economic development is to learn about the strengths of other regions through education and hands-on experiences. The first high-school student exchange between Lidköping and Rockford will take place in April when 13 welding students from De la Gardie High School in Lidköping come to Rockford for a seven-or eight-day visit. Both Sweden and the U.S. have a serious shortage of welders. This exchange will help both cities promote the importance of vocational programs to our students.

The students will visit Rockford companies, work with the United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters, visit Chicago and have many other informative activities. Mark Podemski of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council traveled to Lidköping in February to meet with his counterparts and help plan the student exchange. The planners hope to send Rockford students to Lidköping in the future.

Students will visit manufacturing plants, including Superior Joining.



Lidköping Interns Also in Rockford

As part of the Industrial Partnership Agreement between the two cities, two Swedish college students will begin an eight-month internship with the RAEDC. One will begin in April and the other in July.

Linnea Bengtsson is a second-year student at Karlstad University. She is studying personnel management, has trade show experience and has also studied at Santa Monica University for a semester. Einar Emilsson attends Chalmers University in Gothenburg and will complete his degree in engineering. In addition, he is on the board of the Chalmers University Summer Trainee Program and has great contacts in the U.S. and Sweden.

The 25-year-old interns will work on how to make the agreement more successful, with attention to business matchmaking, tourism and special events, as well as learning from each other's forms of government. Companies that are more versed in international strategies enhance their chances for successful growth and making this type of direct contact available for both Rockford and Lidköping companies can be very valuable. The City of Rockford will identify potential candidates to be interns in Sweden.



Einar Emilsson and Linnea Bengtsson

Save Money with Rockford Airport's Foreign Trade Zone

Swedish companies interested in doing business in the Rockford area or in using the Chicago Rockford International Airport to move their goods can save money by taking advantage of the Rockford airport's Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #176).

Some of the benefits include

- defer, reduce or eliminate Customs duties
- labor and overhead are excluded from dutiable value of foreign merchandise
- special Customs procedures, quotas and ad valorem taxes for bottom-line benefits

Visit www.flyrfd.com and click on Airport Authority for more information on FTZ benefits.



Virtual Office Business Opens in Rockford

When you are ready to establish a presence in the Rockford area, you may want to check out Rockford's new Perryville Virtual Office Suites. They can meet your office and meeting space needs with style and efficiency.

They are located near Interstate-90, a major thoroughfare, and the Chicago Rockford International Airport. They have state-of-the-art information-technology amenities to meet all the needs of a businessperson. Here are some of the features:

- furnished offices, full-time or part-time, from 8 to to 25 square meters.
- flexible terms; rent by the hour, day, week, month or year
- no up-front capital expenditure, allowing you to invest in core business
- meeting rooms with Cisco VoIP phones and internet connectivity, shared T-1
- video-conference, LCD projector, TV/VCR/DVD, white boards and flip charts
- receptionist to answer calls, manage messages and greet clients



For more information, contact Lynn Martz, PVOS center manager at 815.877.3707, lmartz@perryvillevos.com or www.perryvillevos.com, or Mark Podemski, RAEDC vice president of development at 815.987.8118, ext. 124 or mpodemski@rockfordil.com

Economic Development Map of Rockford Available

The new 2008 map of the Rockford area shows all the information that industrial and commercial people want to know, such as:

- state-designated truck routes
- more communities
- more business parks
- new TIFs, WIFI hot spots
- sewer, wells, water mains and more

To request a free map, contact Mark Podemski, RAEDC vice president of development at 815.987.8118, ext. 124 or mpodemski@rockfordil.com. You can also see the map www.rockfordil.com/maps.

RAEDC's Mark Podemski Named President of SACC-Chicago Board

The Swedish-American Chambers of Commerce-Chicago recently elected Mark Podemski as the president of their board of directors. Podemski, vice president of development for the RAEDC, said, "As SACC Chicago helps attract investments from Sweden to the Midwest and vice versa, I want to recruit more corporate or business members to join SACC Chicago as it will add greater energy and add to the business focus of our mission."



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to jmueller@rockfordil.com, by jfadden@rockfordil.com
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Rockford Area Economic Development Council | 100 Park Avenue | Suite 100 | Rockford | IL | 61101