

NOTE: *"It's the best deal that anybody's seen in a long time," Herncane added. Thomas Seward, a project manager with JobsOhio, helped facilitate the deal with representatives from Heinz, the Canton-based Stark Development Board and the city. He called the agreement a victory, since other states were competing for the Heinz expansion.*

THE REPOSITORY

November 18, 2013

Heinz plans \$28 million expansion in Massillon

The H.J. Heinz Co. is looking to add nearly 250 jobs in Massillon by expanding its processing facility on Oberlin Road SW.

By Steven M. Grazier

If money were ketchup, a whole lot of the red sauce would appear to be oozing into the city in the near future.

The H.J. Heinz Co. — a pillar in the ketchup industry — is planning a \$28 million expansion to its processing facility at 1301 Oberlin Road SW, an effort that aims to add 249 local manufacturing jobs over three years, beginning next year, and retain up to 450 existing positions, according to Mayor Kathy Catazaro-Perry.

"This is a great deal for the city. We're excited (Heinz) chose us for a place to invest and grow," the mayor said Monday, noting the job retention part of the agreement was paramount.

"Maintaining jobs for current city families helps to decrease their anxiety and stress level immensely, especially going into the holidays," she added.

Heinz processes frozen foods at the Massillon plant.

The city offered Heinz a nine-year job creation tax credit with descending percentages of credit throughout the term, said city Community Development Director Ted Herncane. He said that about 20 other businesses have tax incentive deals with the city. The Heinz credit starts at 0.75 percent in 2014 and decreases to 0.25 percent by 2022.

Massillon City Council is scheduled to consider the deal during its regular meeting Dec. 2.

Overall, the proposal allows Heinz to save about \$513,000 in income tax payments to the city over nine years, Herncane said, noting the city is expected to garner nearly \$410,000 over the same period.

Massillon was competing with other Heinz facilities in Florida, California, Iowa and South Carolina for an expansion agreement, Herncane said. Work to expand the Massillon plant could start as early as the end of the year.

Article continued here: <http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20131118/NEWS/131119352>

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