

Viewpoint

OUR VIEW

Industrial park can impact local economy

In a recent letter to the editor Griffin-Spalding Development Authority Chairman Chuck Copeland responded to criticism from local residents about the lack of businesses at The Lakes at Green Valley industrial park.

Copeland emphasized that the industrial park was intended to be part of a long-term effort to attract businesses to Griffin and Spalding County. He also said that Development Authority officials had met with and were continuing to meet with a number of industrial prospects.

Two recent announcements prove that the Development Authority has been successful in its efforts to promote the eco-friendly park.

Last month Japan-based Otsuka Chemical Co. Ltd. announced that it will establish a North American headquarters at The Lakes at Green Valley, creating 32 jobs.

Otsuka will manufacture titanate friction materials for automotive break pads at the local facility.

"We are confident they will be constructing a first-class facility and creating quality jobs for our community," Copeland said at the time of the announcement.

A ground-breaking ceremony for that project will take place on July 15.

On Wednesday Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal announced that Japan-based Toppan Printing Co. Ltd. will create 80 jobs and invest \$100 million in a new facility at The Lakes at Green Valley. Toppan will use the site to bolster the company's capacity to supply transparent barrier films to packaging manufacturers in North America and Europe. The facility will produce packaging solutions for food, medical and electronic applications.

Development Authority Executive Director David Luckie said the film manufacturing "is food-related so we have talked to them about the connection with the University of Georgia Griffin Campus Food Technology Center. We hope they might take advantage of this opportunity with UGA."

The utilization of The Lakes at Green Valley to create jobs — along with the continued success of UGA-Griffin and Southern Crescent Technical College — can be the key to moving forward toward a more diversified local economy.

The recent announcements appear to indicate that local leaders know how badly jobs are needed in Griffin-Spalding County, and are taking steps to address the problem.

**THE GRIFFIN
DAILY NEWS**

VA red

Imagine how much better America's veterans would be if the federal government spent more time delivering actual care and less time compiling tyrannical, death-inducing secret waiting lists for patients. These lists are just the tip of the iceberg.

Did you know, for example, that the VA keeps a database on "disgruntled" and "disruptive" vets that results in arbitrarily restricted care?

Disabled Air Force veteran and veterans attorney Benjamin Kravitz has been raising questions about the VA system for months and his peers. Under the VA on "patient record flags" federal bureaucrats call vets as "threats" based on assessments of their "annoying" and "non-compliant" behavior.

The VA manual says the flags "are used to divert Veterans Health Administration medical staff and employees from patients whose behavioral characteristics may present either to their safety, or of other patients, or of the delivery of quality care."

That last phrase is untold numbers of veterans dead, and legions more languished because of VA's failure to deliver health care." The Office of Special Counsel just told President Obama that vets across the country were exposed to contaminated drinking water, dirty tools, untrained doctors and neglectful nurses —