

EFFINGHAM BUSINESS REPORT

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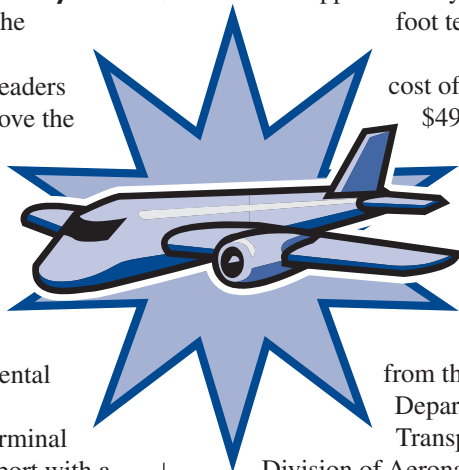
CROSSROADS OF OPPORTUNITY

FALL 2009

Effingham County Airport to have terminal replaced

With the Effingham County Airport serving as one of the many “front doors” to the Effingham community, city leaders are working together to improve the airport’s terminal to make it more welcoming to visitors.

The City of Effingham, County of Effingham, and Effingham County Airport Commission recently entered into an intergovernmental agreement to allow for the replacement of the current terminal at the Effingham County Airport with a



new approximately 2,000-square-foot terminal.

The estimated cost of the project is \$497,000 and will be funded through a combination of \$297,000 from General Aviation Entitlements from the Illinois Department of Transportation – Division of Aeronautics; \$100,000

from the County of Effingham; and \$100,000 from the City of Effingham.

The Effingham County Civic Foundation was instrumental in getting this project off the ground by providing the initial funding for preliminary architectural work related to the development of the project. Also, Dr. Rick Workman provided funding to cover the cost for the design of the building.

According to the intergovernmental agreement, the Airport Commission will use its best efforts to complete the project by December 31, 2010.

Bonutti Research Expanding, Creating Jobs

Bonutti Research is expanding its facility to accommodate its growing businesses. The Bonutti Research building houses affiliated businesses, Bonutti Technologies, Inc, Joint Active Systems, Unity Ultrasonics and Transet Surgical.

These business units conduct a full range of operations – from research and development to product manufacturing to sales, order fulfillment and back office administration. The growth of the businesses and development of new surgical technology demands more space.

The expansion of more than 6400 square feet is now underway. It includes office space for product development

engineers and researchers, a new “clean-room” assembly workspace, expanded manufacturing and reconfigured warehousing storage. When completed sometime in the first quarter of 2010, the



Research in 1989 and in the past twenty years has been awarded over 250 US and international patents. Bonutti Research acts as a business incubator for different groups of technology. “I am most proud

of our recent developments with adaptation of ultrasonic welding technology in surgery. We are at the global forefront in the development of this surgical expertise.” says Bonutti.

Presently, more than 100 people are employed through this facility in Effingham, with an additional 145 independent sales agents who help manage global customers for its affiliates.

square footage of the building will be 32,000 square feet.

“With the expansion we hope to add approximately 20 people, primarily engineers and technicians in the next three years,” states Boris Bonutti, Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Peter Bonutti founded Bonutti



JOINT ACTIVE SYSTEMS

Midland States Bank makes a statement

Midland States Bank wants their new corporate headquarters, that is to be built in the Network Center Technology Park on Effingham's northeast side, to make a statement – a statement about the bank's plans to continue to grow and develop in the Effingham area – a statement about the Effingham business community as a great place to do business – and a statement about how a well managed, well financed bank can find opportunities in the current global banking industry environment.

Plans are on the drawing board for a four story 65,000 square foot building that will be located east of Heartland Dental Care, between Willenborg and Network Center Drive and highly visible along Interstates 57/70. The facility will house support services for Midland's 15 banking centers including executive offices, human resources, marketing, IT, credit, loans and deposit operations as well as a corporate training center.

The bank has experienced phenomenal growth in the last 12 months, adding banks and employees to their three banking

locations in Effingham. Midland States Bank currently provides financial services in Centralia, Champaign, Columbia, Effingham, Farina, Freeburg, Greenville, Hecker, Smithton, Vandalia, Waterloo, Illinois and Chesterfield, Missouri. Current bank employment stands at 185; compared to 105 this time last year.

Leon Holschbach, Midland States Bank's President and CEO, credits community efforts to offer expanded

in a really nice community is a winning combination," Holschbach noted. Quality of life factors such as TREC and the regional sports complex help the bank and other employers attract quality employees to the Effingham area.

Holschbach also anticipates that the bank's investment in a new facility will encourage other local companies to continue to invest in the community and attract new companies to Effingham. The

bank plans to utilize as many local contractors as possible in constructing the building to further enhance the local economy.

Midland States Bank has purchased approximately five acres for their corporate campus providing space for additional future expansion.



quality of life aspects as a strong attraction for bringing new employees and new residents to the community from across the country. The most recent managers hired by the bank are relocating to Effingham from five states: Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, and Pennsylvania.

"A good job is attractive, but a good job

Once the headquarters building is complete, the bank will be reviewing options for the main banking facility in downtown Effingham, including either a comprehensive remodel or construction of a new bank building at the site where the bank has been located for well over 100 years.

Lavender Ridge groundbreaking

Aging service provider, Lavender Ridge, is breaking ground on a new senior living development in Effingham for people living with the challenges of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia.

Lavender Ridge, a dignified memory care facility, located at 1103 N. Maple Street, is anticipated to open in summer 2010. Upon completion, Lavender Ridge will contain 28 memory care residences. Lavender Ridge has a similar facility in Mt. Vernon, Illinois that opened March 2009. The facility has been well received by the community.

The specially designed facility will include private studio style apartments, two activity rooms, two dining rooms, a beauty/barber shop, and various other

common areas. Lavender Ridge will offer a home like touch, including a front porch to help residents feel at ease and a fenced in back yard that is accessible to the residents.

Lavender Ridge will offer recreational activities as well as memory stimulation activities and constant

supervision by trained staff in Alzheimer's care. The caring staff will help with activities of daily living, medication management, and daily health monitoring. Each resident will have an individualized plan of care that

ensures that their needs are met and personal choices are respected.

The need for senior living developments and specialized residential

options for memory care is increasing in Illinois and across the country. According to the Alzheimer's Association there are 5.3 million people with Alzheimer's and every 70 seconds

someone new is diagnosed with the disease in the United States.

Please contact Sandy Michels at 217-994-3210 if you would like further information on how Lavender Ridge may be of assistance.



Humane Society purchases new building

A building in rural Effingham that once housed grade school classes for Effingham Unit 40 will be fulfilling a new purpose for the community, as the result of a recent auction.

The Effingham County Humane Society recently purchased the Funkhouser School building to serve as its new home.

Although the Humane Society had been raising funds to go toward the construction of a new facility to be built on a vacant lot at 307 Miracle Ave. in Effingham, the group had only raised about 20 percent of the \$350,000 needed for construction. As a result, the group decided to jump on the opportunity to purchase the old grade school building,



which was accomplished with a sealed bid of \$74,000.

The new facility, located a few miles east of Effingham, will house two cat rooms, one dog room, office space, and public space for fund-raisers and public education. The facility also will provide needed space for the group to expand its services and programs.

The Funkhouser School most recently served as the Treatment and Learning Center, which has since moved to the former East Side Preschool building.

The Humane Society is looking for volunteers to help with the project. For more information about the Humane Society, call 217-536-9001. The new address is 12073 N 1000th Road, Effingham, IL 62401.

Mid America Motorworks improves campus

Each year, Mid America Motorworks in Effingham makes many improvements to its campus. And, this year was no exception!

Even with a slower economy, Mid America Motorworks representatives felt continuing these improvements was not only important for the company, but also for the community to keep local jobs intact.

Earlier in the year, Mid America Motorworks planted almost two dozen young trees along Funfest Boulevard, on the north side of the main office building. This road leads to the Funfest field, used for many automotive activities during the year.

Along that same area, Mid America Motorworks added a cement burn-out box and a cement pad used for exhaust sound-off wars. Both areas are favorite activities with the automotive enthusiast and will sure to be a hit for many years to come. In the burn-out box, customers can spin their wheels on a special surface create a lot of smoke, noise, and much excitement. Spectators then will rate the effort and pick a winner.

Other additions include walk-ways to the Cantina in the north field. The Cantina

is used as an additional shop during events and anchors the food court. The new walk-ways allow the customers to easily access food vendors and the Cantina. Within the walk-ways, a new grassy mall area was



created with additional trees. During events, tables and chairs are positioned in this mall area for a relaxing atmosphere.

The final project this year was the building of a permanent 60 by 40 foot stage. The stage is raised four feet above the ground and is able to accommodate any entertainment formation. This year during Corvette Funfest, the sound of '60s returned with entertainment by the Jan and Dean Show, followed by the hard-driving rock band, Survivor, which entertained customers for almost two hours with a spectacular show.

In 2010, many new additions are planned to the Mid America Motorworks campus to continue the development that has been set in motion many years ago.

To learn more about Mid America Motorworks, visit www.mamotorworks.com.

County invests in LEAM – land use model

The Effingham County Board has approved annual funding that will allow local planners and policy makers to project economic conditions and likely land use changes involved in new development and redevelopment projects.

Effingham County, along with four surrounding counties and the South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission, are each investing \$240 per year to ensure that this support system is in place to analyze results they need to make informed decisions. This GeoPortal enables a community to visualize potential futures through an integration of process and analysis while reducing time and costs. LEAM uses GIS technology to create vivid maps and charts describing the potential impacts of planning decisions and activities.

In 2007, area business leaders, farmers, educators, local government leaders and community residents identified Effingham County's top five Drivers which currently affect land use & five Scenarios that might affect future land use change.

The Top 5 Drivers were entrepreneurial spirit, agriculture & farming, transportation, interstates & railroads and medical facilities. The Top 5 Scenarios were medical center, potential sports complex, preserve ag land for raw materials, economic development and draw in outsiders.

For more information about LEAM, contact the Effingham County Board office at 217-342-4990.

Investing in Effingham: Businesses open and expand!

The Greater Effingham Area has long been known for its resiliency in challenging economic times. Today's financial times are no different. Despite the national downturn, local businesses are investing in the community with new business starts and expansions.

Smith, Moore & Co.
Providing financial advice since 1913.
Member FINRA / SIPC

Smith, Moore & Company opened its first Illinois location at 401 South Banker Street this summer. Smith, Moore is a privately owned financial services firm that has been in existence since 1913 with headquarters in Clayton, MO. The Effingham office is the ninth Midwest office operated by the company.

Lions Liquors is adding 1,100 square feet to their building at 204 South Henrietta Street in Effingham for use as a dedicated wine room. The area will contain approximately 450 types of wine, including specialty wines and Illinois wines. Owner Clay Stevenson plans to hold weekly wine tastings and patrons will be able to purchase wine by the glass or bottle to enjoy while shopping or on the new patio area, weather permitting. The Lions Wine Room is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving.



Joe's Pizza & Pasta is undergoing a major expansion project - both inside and out! Joe's will be expanding into the adjacent vacant space and getting a facelift on the building front at 115 E. Jefferson in Downtown Effingham.



El Rancherito expanded seating, added a bar and buffet to the restaurant by moving next door. The restaurant is located at 1311 N. Keller Drive.



The First National Bank of Dieterich's new facility at Route 33 and Nazarene Road will replace the existing facility on Route 33 and Lake Sara Road. It is scheduled to be open before the end of 2009.



Schumacher Orthodontics opened for business in a new 3,000 square foot building located at 602 Eden Drive in September. Dr. Chuck Schumacher is a native of the Sigel area north of Effingham, who returned to the community after completing his education. His wife, Dr. Allison Schumacher, is a dentist in Altamont. Schumacher Orthodontics offers orthodontic treatments for children, adolescents and adults and utilizes all-digital technology. Initial consultations are free of charge. Dr. Schumacher can be reached at 217-347-6453.



Fox Lodge Hunting Depot offers area sportsmen a collection of firearms, accessories and ammunition as well as hunting supplies in a new building constructed at the junction of South Route 45 and Illinois Route 37, south of Effingham. The business is an authorized dealer for Benelli, Avery and Foiles and will buy, sell, trade and offer consignment options on firearms. Fishing products will be introduced in the Spring 2010. Future plans include gunsmithing services, an indoor firing range, and fire safety courses. More information can be found at www.foxlodgehunting.com.



Martin's IGA underwent a major remodeling of their store at 101 S. Merchant Street this summer, expanding their dairy and frozen food section and allowing them to add a greater variety of specialty foods including gluten-free and organic items. This project is part of an ongoing investment by company owner Newlin Martin in providing a modern and convenient shopping environment for the community. More improvements are planned in 2010.



McDonald's has a brand new building on N. Keller Drive, featuring a double drive-thru and a future outdoor seating area.

Young Professionals gain recognitions

Community leaders have recognized that the more informed, involved and connected young professionals are, the more likely they will stay in the area and the more influence they will have on the future of Effingham County.

Young professionals have an opportunity to get involved in YBNext, a young leaders organization developed by the Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry in early 2008. YBNext has become a place where young professionals between 21 and 45 come together to learn from and with each other through professional development events, networking activities and charitable causes.

YBNext members also feel the need to support their younger counterparts and are signing up as advisors to the county's entrepreneurship students so they can provide another level of involvement to future community leaders. They have adopted a section of highway just outside of Effingham and will have several work

days each year to keep it cleared of debris. They have also signed on to supply a

treat closet so that grade school students who may not be able to afford to bring treats will be able to celebrate birthdays with their classmates.

In addition, the Effingham Daily News has selected the area's Top 20 Under 40 leaders for the second year in a row, providing an opportunity to showcase the next generation of community leaders who are already making a difference in the community. A profile of each young leader was printed in a special newspaper tabloid and YBNext, the Greater Effingham Chamber of Commerce & Industry and local businesses joined the Daily News in honoring the recipients at an awards dinner in late September.



Teutopolis Fire Department moves and expands



The Teutopolis Fire Department needed more room to house fire trucks and local concrete contractor J. B. Esker & Sons was able to utilize more convenient space for their business needs by swapping buildings.

The Fire Department purchased the former Midwest Precise building and added 7,500 square feet, giving them dedicated space for administrative and training facilities, plus indoor parking for 8 fire trucks and a wash bay. The fire department is supported by 27 volunteer firemen.

J. B. Esker purchased the old fire station built in 1963 which is next door to their facility on Main Street in Teutopolis.

Effingham and Teutopolis plan for bike routes

Two communities in Effingham County will be working to create formal plans for bicycle paths, as part of a countywide effort to develop a trail system.

Ed Barsotti of the League of Illinois Bicyclists recently introduced the City of Effingham and the Village of Teutopolis to the idea of this planning process during presentations held in each of the communities.

According to Barsotti, the plans will give each of the participants a blue print for a trail system that would incorporate existing comprehensive plans, along with taking consideration of where bike paths will best serve a community.

The creation of bike trails in the

community does not necessarily mean a separate trail will be built exclusively for bikes, but also existing roads meeting the required specifications could serve as a bike path by re-stripping the roadway to include a bike path.



The Effingham City Council formally approved the initial planning phase for the paths in October, and it will fund the cost of \$10,000 through Hotel/Motel Tax.

Residents in the Village of Teutopolis held

community meetings to discuss the trail system in their community.

The initiative to create Recreation Trails in Effingham County is led by the TREC organization, which is currently working on the construction of the first recreation trail project in the county.

Dollar General plans new building



The Effingham City Council rezoned property along South Banker Street in front of the Village Square Mall to allow construction of a new 9,600 square foot Dollar General store. The store currently has a smaller store located inside of the mall.

The new store represents a trend by Dollar General to have their own building and locate along a retail corridor with good traffic and visibility. Dollar General is one of the nation's largest small box discount retailers with over 8,000 stores in 35 states.

Effingham County offers unique high school Entrepreneurship class

The first year of Effingham County's efforts to provide a unique business learning experience for high school students was deemed a success by any measure. The first class of 22 students experienced an innovative approach to education – learning about business from business people, in a business setting and by developing their own business.

The CEO class (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) is now well into its second year. All six county high schools have students enrolled in the class. Interest in the program is coming from school districts across Illinois and the U.S.

Craig Lindvahl, who serves as the CEO instructor, is excited about the life changing structure of the class. "These students are receiving a million dollar education in business," he says. "Our students are learning from very successful people who have done very well in

business and in life-people who are willing to share their knowledge, skills, and guidance with our students."

This fall the class hosted Dr. Tom Hill, author of *Chicken Soup for the Entrepreneurial Soul*, and traveled to Chicago to visit Ignite USA, a product development and manufacturing company as well as visiting many local businesses and planned their first community activity.

An angel investor fund has been established by a local couple aimed at offering assistance for CEO graduates in starting businesses in Effingham County. Students who have graduated from the class, have at least two years of college, and who are willing to start a business in Effingham County are eligible to be considered for funding from the Angel Investor Fund.

Lindvahl feels that the fund ties in perfectly with the goals of the class. "We're trying to give our young people



business and life skills that will serve them well," he says, "and we hope the fund, along with the advice and counsel of our business community, will entice these students to consider coming back to Effingham County to start their businesses. We're in a time in our country where 'brain drain' is a serious issue, and it's impressive that our business community is taking these important steps to ensure that Effingham County is a 'brain magnet'."

Weekly updates on CEO Class activities can be found on the class website: www.ceoclass.ning.com.

County forms economic development advisory board

The Effingham County Board has established an economic development advisory committee with plans to help increase economic growth in the county, create new employment opportunities, advance infrastructure improvements and maintain a competitive position in the regional, national and global marketplace.

The group has selected the slogan, "We're Open for Business" as their guide for committee initiatives which include developing a website to promote Effingham County and provide information on what's available in the county.

The committee includes three county board members, the City of Effingham's economic development director and three community members.

Trail wins "Project of the Year" award

Trail Recreation Effingham County (TREC) was named the State of Illinois' trail project of the year by the Mid-America Trails & Greenways Conference, which met in Kalamazoo, MI, October 25 - 28, 2009.

The Mid-America Trails and Greenways Organization award recognizes organizations that exemplify the 'can do' attitude so prevalent in the trails and greenways movement. Dick Westfall of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources says, "TREC is a true grass-roots organization of local people who saw a need and opportunity in their community." Westfall adds, "All across the Midwest, communities are planning and developing trails and greenways that make connections - between communities, between people, with nature, and with future generations."

About 300 people from across the Midwest, including trail advocates, state officials and National Park Service representatives, attended the conference. The Mid-America Trails and Greenways Alliance member states include Illinois,

Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Frank Brummer, President of TREC Board says,

"TREC has become a proud project for the State of Illinois because of the broad support from the city, county, park district, business community, and citizens of the county. This award gives deserved recognition to the city and county of Effingham and all of its supporters." Brummer accepted the award on behalf of TREC at the conference.

To inquire about the countywide trail system, or to support the project and buy feet of the trail, email info@EffinghamCountyTrail.org or call 217-857-6649. More information, updates and a copy of the proposed trail map can be found on TREC's Facebook page: TREC Trail Recreation Effingham County.



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Sponsor Spotlight - First National Bank of Dieterich

2009 has been an extraordinary year for The First National Bank of Dieterich. This year, as we celebrate one hundred years in community banking, we've reflected on the past while looking to the future. We've recognized one hundred years of organic growth within the organization, that growth due in part to the special dedication of our employees, past and present. The highlight of the bank's Centennial was the 22nd Annual Customer Appreciation Picnic – Centennial Celebration event held at Liberty Park in Dieterich on September 17th. Even though this is an event the bank does every year with approximately 800 in attendance, this year was made extra special with over 1,500 bank customers. As stated by Delbert Mundt, long-time resident of Dieterich, "It was a fantastic event. Projects like this are coordinated by a few, but it takes a whole team to make it a success. It was just the best ever."

In addition to recognizing the bank's Centennial year, the bank implemented several large projects this year due to the growth we've experienced, and to help

meet the demands of our existing and future customers. Phase I was the planning of a totally new web site that went live on September 24, 2009. Product-driven and customer-focused, www.primebanc.com offers a wealth of information on products, services and important topics such as identity theft. The new web site implemented many features to enhance our customer's online experience. Phase II of the project will integrate more automated processes with our deposit products, enabling our customers to make immediate decisions on what products and services are right for them from any computer with internet access. Phase III will enhance the customer experience with our loan products. The objective of the overall project is to make our community bank accessible, 24/7, for all of our

customer's banking needs.

Also, because we still believe in supporting our communities, the bank is in the process of completing several facility expansions in Effingham including the new facility on Route 33 and Nazarene

Road and in Dieterich, the bank is expanding the Operations Center located on Section Street with a 1,500 square foot addition with a basement.

With a progressive vision for the future, it is our challenge to continue to meet the existing needs of our customers, and to be prepared for future expectations. *The First National Bank of Dieterich – Enriching the Communities We Serve, Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow.*

