

Merrillville Ameriplex set to grow some more

New 261,000-square-foot spec building planned for business park site

By Karen Caffarini
For Post-Tribune

The Merrillville Town Council has learned of yet another new building to be constructed in Ameriplex at the Crossroads while granting final approval for financial incentives to other new projects at the business park and the expansion of an existing auto dealership along U.S. 30.

Matt Kurucz, managing director of Crow Holdings in Chicago, announced at the June 8 meeting that it had just closed on another 27.5-acre parcel at 9602 Georgia St. and hopes to break ground on an approximately 261,000-square-foot spec building there June 14.

He said the company would invest close to \$25 million on the project and the building could hold up to three tenants.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled about the caliber and quality of the tenants we’ve attracted in Merrillville,” Kurucz said.

Crow Holdings received incentives for its building in the business park now under construction. That building, which faces Interstate 65, will be occupied by Midwest Truck & Auto, Quality Pasta and Turbonetics, which also received incentives.

Pennsylvania-based Quality Pasta, the maker of Muscle Mac and other pasta and sauce products, will hire about 50 employees in the first year to process and package its various products and those of other private label brands, according to Karen Lauerman, president and CEO of Lake County IN

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Economic Alliance, which helped bring the company to Merrillville.

The company said it will invest \$13.3 million to lease and upgrade 89,540 square feet in the building.

Turbonetics, designer and manufacturer of turbochargers for vehicles, will move from its current 27,000-square-foot building in Hebron to a 65,000-square-foot space in the Crow Holdings building.

General manager Joe Krivickas said previously the company has outgrown its Hebron space, where it’s been located for about 23 years. Lauerman said the company will retain its 60 employees and hire 20 more upon the move.

Midwest Truck & Auto Parts will occupy 125,000-square-feet in the building. The company, a global supplier of aftermarket components for heavy, medium, light duty and performance automotive truck applications, will hire up to 150 new employees by the end of 2024.

The council also granted

final approval for 10-year tax abatements to Webb Hyundai for a \$7.5 million to \$8 million expansion of its dealership on U.S. 30 and to Pure Development, which is building a 110,000-square-foot building in the Ameriplex for a single tenant, Domino’s Pizza.

Domino’s Pizza plans to invest about \$50.3 million for a regional pizza dough production and warehouse facility on the 15.2-acre parcel located next to Dawn Foods.

Matthew Zaia, Domino’s vice president of development, said previously the new facility will create 140 new jobs by the end of 2023. Zaia said new hires will include truck drivers, production members overseeing dough production, office and warehouse staff. The company also received financial incentives from the town.

Brian Webb, vice president of Webb Auto Group, said its Merrillville Hyundai dealership will double in size with this project.

“We’re also adding more new technology, which will generate more jobs,” Webb said.

Karen Caffarini is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.