



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
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PRESS RELEASE

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CITY OF ROCKFORD AND LIEBOVICH PARTNER IN REDEVELOPMENT ON WEST SIDE

ROCKFORD – October 29, 2008 – Leaders from the City of Rockford and Liebovich Steel & Aluminum Company stood side-by-side today as they celebrated the official groundbreaking for the addition of an 80,000 square foot warehouse and manufacturing facility that will stand at the site of the old J.I. Case plant.

The expansion on the Preston site is the first such redevelopment project the City's west side has seen in years and will bring approximately 10 new jobs to the area. More importantly, the project should act as a stimulus for future redevelopment in on the west side. As pointed out by Liebovich Vice President Michael Tulley, "We have invested millions of dollars in our plants, and in our people, to insure that we continue to stay at the forefront of our industry. We were eager to partner with the City of Rockford in this redevelopment project; not only enhance our product and service offerings here in Rockford, but to also bring new life to an old, Brownfield manufacturing site on Rockford's west side."

In order to bring the proposed redevelopment project to reality, the city designated the area as the Preston and Central TIF Redevelopment Area in January of 2007. This TIF District was created for the purpose of providing the mechanisms necessary to support public and private development, to strengthen this area as an industrial and commercial district, and to promote job growth and strengthen the City's economic base. This integrated strategy leverages public resources to stimulate additional

private investment including rehabilitation of existing structures and new development.

In addition to the TIF designation, the city removed three of the standing Case buildings, some of which dated back to the early part of the century, and worked with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that the old plant facility had been properly cleared and sealed. “We are also grateful for the strong cooperation we received from the City administration and staff in working through this very challenging project,” Tulley added.

With the recent economic news, the expansion of the Liebovich site is exciting news for the Rockford community. “We are very fortunate that we were able to continue moving ahead with this expansion. For both the current employees and our community, this is a great move,” said Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey.

Liebovich Steel & Aluminum Company began in 1939, as a small scrap business in south Rockford with only a pickup truck and a desire for hard work. Over the decades to follow, Liebovich has grown from this humble beginning to become a major metals service center operation, employing over 600 people and servicing customers throughout the Midwest. Over 300 of these people are employed in the greater Rockford area. Their present, 500,000 square foot facility, allows Liebovich to stock in excess of 3,500 ferrous and nonferrous items, and to provide state-of-the-art processing services that range from high-definition plasma cutting to precision plate and sheet shearing, flame cutting, grinding, stress relieving, and saw cutting.

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