

## I-90 project generates business interest in Huntley

HUNTLEY – Realtors and business developers have shown heightened interest in Huntley since a bid was awarded in March to start construction on the multimillion-dollar Interstate 90-Route 47 interchange project.

Small retailers and manufacturers have contacted Huntley in recent months, although village officials are quiet on who specifically has inquired about the areas around the interchange.

But at least one Realtor from the 240-acre Huntley Corporate Park, near the southwest edge of I-90, has said his company is close to announcing a deal with an industrial firm that wants to occupy a 3-acre site near the FYH Bearing building, 13201 FYH Drive.

“What we have seen in the last quarter has been an increase in interest,” said Mike Gazzola of Entre Commercial Reality. “That interchange is changing the landscape pretty dramatically right now.”

Entre and the industrial firm could make an announcement about a new deal within the next two weeks, Gazzola said. The Huntley Village Board also would have to approve the agreement.

The real estate firm and Reiche Construction had overseen development in the large business park before the 2008 economic downturn, which curtailed growth.

But Gazzola said the \$69 million project that will create a full interchange at I-90 and Route 47 has been a prime reason for the renewed interest in the Huntley Corporate Park.

Once announced, the industrial firm will join FYH, Inglese Box Co., LDI Industries, and Rohrer Corp. in the park, which also borders the Del Webb retirement community.

The village also has seen a spike in calls from various businesses since Plote Construction was awarded a \$35.7 million contract in March to build the long-awaited project. Newly built ramps could open by summer 2013.

Multiple groups, including the state, village, and McHenry and Kane counties, have dedicated money for the project, which officials hope will spur development in an area that already has boomed in population during the last decade.

“We’ve definitely seen increased activity in many fronts. It’s all very exciting,” said Victor Narusis, who handles business recruitment for the village. “There is no doubt the interchange is a huge part of it.”

Huntley, in particular, has plans to develop business parks that would house a diverse mix of industrial, technology and manufacturing companies in the northeast and southwest areas surrounding the I-90-Route 47 corridor.

The village will look to target midsize companies that want to add 30 to 40 jobs apiece to the Huntley area, but Village Manager Dave Johnson said the village will remain flexible when trying to develop the areas around the interchange.

“It’s not going to happen overnight,” Johnson said. “But we think the table has been set for it to happen.”

By STEPHEN Di BENEDETTO  
May 14, 2012