

Sycamore Industrial Park – groomed and growing



West end of Flora

Dennis Kuns stands by the tall sign advertising Sycamore Industrial Park, owned by his corporation, DLP 315 LLC. It is located at 315 S. Sycamore St., Flora. The site offers 75,000 sq. ft. and a potential of 15 tenants. The three current tenants occupy nearly 40 percent of the space. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Sycamore Industrial Park in Flora is an example of what can be done with a vacant, distressed industrial site.

The plant at 315 South Sycamore Street (State Road 75) formerly was occupied by Stephen A. Young Corp. (SAYCO), JPI, and Briggs Industries. All three manufactured plumbing fixtures.

Briggs ceased manufacturing operations in 2003.

DLP 315 LLC, owned by Dennis Kuns of Camden, leased the property in 2006 and purchased it last summer.

"It's a work in progress," he said. The labor comes from his own company, D-K Construction.

"Between 2006 and 2008, we worked to clean up, repair the roof, stabilize the building, and get tenants in here," he said.

"We took out assembly lines and

heavy industrial machinery. In all, we removed between 300,000 and 400,000 pounds of scrap iron."

"SAYCO started manufacturing in the 1940s," Kuns said. "After years and years of production, you can imagine the amount of grease and grime."

He said he hired a person to power wash all the walls, floors, and ceilings, and go over it twice. It took most of one summer, he said.

Kuns's plan for the building complex is to give everything a unified look.

"It started out at 83,000 sq. ft., and we're paring it down to about 75,000 sq. ft.," he explained.

So far, they've taken off five additions that were in disrepair or otherwise detracted from the property's appearance, and Kuns said they have two or three more to go.

Interior space was remodeled for the three current tenants, and the front of the main building has a new look.

Kuns said work completed on the front includes new windows and doors, new siding, and a new color scheme, which will be carried out as further work is done. And a new sign went up recently.

Another improvement, Kuns said, was installing seven overhead doors, with more to come.

"We're in the process of putting in a new mechanical system," he added.

Kuns said the purchase included two vacant lots across the street and a seven-acre field behind the property, for a total of 15 acres, counting the industrial complex. The main plant and detached office total 33,000 sq. ft. There are two warehouses, (12,000 sq. ft. and 10,000 sq. ft.) and two shop areas (16,000 and 4,000 sq. ft.).

"Potentially, there are as many as 15 tenant spaces here, of various sizes" Kuns said. "These are suitable for shop and warehousing operations, and small manufacturing."

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Get ready for spring clean-up in Delphi

No curb-side service this year

Comet staff report

The annual Delphi Spring Clean-up is scheduled for April 11 and 18 from 7 a.m. until noon. However, the change in the way city trash removal is being done this year, signaled a change in the way the much-anticipated spring ritual will be managed as well.

Residents are now required to take all refuse, trash and throw-a-ways to Riley Park Annex for disposal. Indiana Waste Systems, the same company under contract with the city to provide weekly trash removal, will provide dumpsters, and an employee to help unload items at the drop-off site. Residents must provide proof of residency, such as a utility bill or driver's license, to be able to leave items.

"Going door-to-door would be much more expensive for the city," said street commissioner Aaron Lyons. "The spring clean-up was factored into the contract with Indiana Waste Systems."

Hazardous, liquid, medical or yard waste, whole tires, batteries, metal or fiber drums or large quantities of construction material will not be accepted.

Lyons reminded residents that all yard waste, picked up in front of residences each Tuesday, must be boxed or bagged for removal. He said the city workers will not remove yard waste which is not contained in some fashion.

For further information or questions, call (765) 564-2097.



Mailing label goes here



Johnson family attends launch festivities

The family of Glenn Johnson attended a NASA reception five days before the launch of the space shuttle Discovery. Astronauts were in quarantine before the launch and unable to attend the event. NASA provided life-sized flat, cardboard cut-outs to attend the festivities in their honor.

Glenn Johnson stands on the right, next to shuttle pilot "flat" Tony Antonelli (in orange). Wife Melissa Magdaleno, on the left, holds daughter Merlova. Daughter Zhivanna and son Akorren are standing in front. Photo provided.

Local NASA connection discovered near Camden

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) space program and shuttle missions are faint and romantic notions for many in the Midwest. Carroll County enjoys an active local aviation community and children of all ages dream about going up into space or working with those who do, but few realize that lofty dream.

There are some individuals who are aware of each and every space

mission. Many of those special people work at NASA. And one of them originally came from Carroll County.

Glenn Johnson, who attended Camden Elementary and Delphi Middle schools in the 1970s and 80s, has achieved his life-long dream of working at NASA and being part of the space program. He has become a "rocket scientist," according to his mother, Mary Ann Barkey of Camden.

Johnson, who is married with three children, lives in the Houston, Texas, area. He trains NASA astronauts

about space shuttle systems but also about systems and procedures on the International Space Station (ISS). He has been at NASA for five years after graduating from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, and after teaching high school physics for five years.

Johnson said he moved to Houston for the sole purpose of pursuing employment at NASA.

A component of his NASA job, Johnson said, is to develop computer hardware and teach others at NASA about how to utilize the hardware. He

said one of his duties is to inspect ISS equipment and work in conjunction with astronauts on the space station to help them receive and implement needed equipment to do their jobs.

"I train astronauts a lot," he said. "I work with all of the shuttle crews."

The most recent shuttle mission in which Discovery landed safely at Kennedy Space Center in Florida Saturday was a special one for Johnson. He and his family attended the launch.

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USDA public meeting on Farm Bill is set in Delphi

Comet staff report

A public information meeting on the 2008 Farm Bill will be held April 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wabash & Erie Canal Center in Delphi. Sponsored by the Carroll County Soil & Water Conservation District presenters will be Jacob Maxwell of Carroll County Farm Service Agency and Joe O'Donnell of

the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

"The 2008 Farm Bill allows several choices for revenue protection and conservation," said Maxwell, FSA executive director. "We want to be sure that our customers have an opportunity to understand what those choices are."

One program that has generated a lot of questions for Farm

Service Agency is the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. ACRE will be a focus for the Farm Service Agency portion of the program. ACRE is an optional program for farms that provides for additional payments in the event of price and/or yield changes. In exchange, participants will receive a reduction 20% in their direct

payments for a farm enrolled in ACRE.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has several programs intended to assist landowners and operators in the stewardship and conservation of their land. This program will provide for some basic information regarding these programs and their requirements.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Maxwell at 765-564-2849, TDD# 317-290-3343 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339, and jacob.maxwell@in.usda.gov by March 30.

Light refreshments will be provided.

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