



May 2011

FEATURED PROPERTIES:



1308 LAKE STREET
La Porte, IN 46350

Building Square Footage: 9,950
Office Square Footage: 622
Industrial Space:
8,533 sq. ft.
Zoning: General Industrial
List Price: \$380k
Lease: \$2.50 sq. ft./year NNN
Utilities: (Water/Sewer) Municipal
(Electric/Gas) NIPSCO
[more information. . .](#)



BASSO BUILDING
La Porte, IN 46350

Building Square Footage:
195,000 sq. ft.
Available Square Footage:
117,000 sq. ft.
Divisible To: 14,000 sq. ft.
List Price: \$1,2M

Lease Rate:
\$1.50 to \$2.00 psf Gross
Zoning: Industrial

Alliance Attracts 280 Jobs and Investments



Michigan City Mayor Chuck O'Berlie and La Porte Mayor Kathy Chrobak

The La Porte County Economic Development Alliance held its first annual meeting last week at the Pottawatomie Country Club. The Alliance met to report its accomplishments in 2010 and start a 3 year fund drive. Craig Dwight, President Horizon Bank and Don Babcock, Economic Development Director with NIPSCO presented pledges at fund raising kick off.

One of 2010's major efforts of the Alliance was the expansion of retention and expansion (R&E) programs to a county-wide effort. The Alliance R&E program made 82 visits, executed 46 responses and generated 5 projects. The program generated a training program guide and referred survey participants to Weil McLain's job fair to employ laid-off workers. Bert Cook was the R&E Coordinator until assuming the post of Portage's EDC Executive Director. The Northwest Indiana Forum incorporated the Alliance R&E program in a regional effort with a common survey and confidential data set. Mayor Chuck Oberlie stated, "We no longer function as two separate communities and a county, but we now collaborate to function as one entity to improve the economy and lives of our citizens."

Selected expansion and retention projects were highlighted at the event. Hearthside Food Solutions, Inc. expanded its Michigan City Baking facility, investing approximately \$5 million, building 23,000 square feet and creating 62 jobs. MonoSol LLC expanded its soluble film plant in La Porte by 40,000 square feet and adding 42 employees. Sanlo Manufacturing was retained in Michigan City, saving 70 jobs, because the City created the Michigan City Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund to support the project. Alpha Baking made a \$1.5 million equipment upgrade and a rail spur addition. "I am very proud of the cooperation between La Porte County, its two Cities and EDC's - we have gotten so much accomplished," said La Porte City Mayor Kathy Chrobak.

This is a brick building with metal siding. It could house multiple tenants and is equipped with heavy power for manufacturing applications. There are 23 cranes within the building: (2) 20-ton, (1) 15-ton, (1) 12.5-ton, (16) 5-ton, (3) 3-ton. There are also 6 drive-in doors and 2 interior docks.
[more information. . .](#)



BULK TRANSPORT

4333 Ohio Street
 Michigan City, IN 46360

92,800 square feet, which is 25,200 square feet of office attached to 67,200 square feet of 22 feet clear height. (24 feet to the deck). Sited on 13.5 acres of land. 2000 AMP - 480, 277 3PHASE

Location Description:

Located within minutes of U.S 20, 421, I-94 & I-80(15 Minutes) I-65(30 Minuntes), Chicago - LOOP(60 Minutes) Michigan State Line via I-94 15 Minutes.
 \$1,251M

[more information. . .](#)

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John Regetz

The new jobs and investment created by the Alliances activities are listed in the table below.

<u>Community</u>	<u>New Jobs</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>New Space</u>
2010 Greater Michigan City	170	10,116,000	94,000
2010 Greater La Porte	110	29,300,000	77,000
La Porte County Total	280	\$39,416,000	171,000

[Click here for more.](#)

County Economy Improving Says PNC Professor



"The last year has seen a significant turnaround in the economy, both locally and nationally," said Derek Bjonback, Associate Professor of Business at Purdue North Central.

And it has been the manufacturing sector that's helped lead La Porte out of what he referred to as the unemployment "trough."

Bjonback spoke during an economic briefing hosed by the Greater La Porte and Michigan City area chambers of commerce and Purdue North Central college of Business on Tuesday at the university's facilities.

Along with two other professors, he covered area of business, the economy and education to explain the county's current situation.

Focusing on the short-term economic outlook, he said the national unemployment rate dropped from 10.1 to 8.9 percent since late 2009. During the course of the same period, La Porte went from 13.2 percent to 11.2.

He cited manufacturing businesses to be a major influence on this result locally, with employment increasing from 7,100 between January 2010 to February 2010, with leisure and hospitality and construction businesses (the latter mostly due to street projects) showing significant gains as well.

Source: La Porte Herald Argus

Community News

MC Area Schools Right On Track



U.S. Secretary of Education
 Arne Duncan

Michigan City Area Schools is on the right track with its new initiatives to enrich the education of students at all levels, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said during a visit Wednesday to Lake Hills Elementary School.

"I feel very, very good about the direction Michigan City schools are taking and the collaboration that's happening between the schools, the teachers' union, local businesses

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and area colleges," Duncan said. "It's being done in ways that have never happened before here, and in ways that are absolutely necessary for the future of education." [Click here for more.](#)

Source: The News Dispatch



Exporting Isn't Just For Large Corporations

The perception is that exporting is only for large corporations, but the reality, says Mark A. Cooper, director of the U.S. Department of Commerce office in Indiana, is that any size company can benefit from international sales.

Cooper brought his message about the benefits of exporting to Michigan City on April 1, when he addressed some 50 local business representatives brought together by the Michigan City Economic Development Corp. at

Pottawattomie Country Club.

But before taking the plunge into the international market, Cooper said business owners need to do their homework.

"That is very important. You have to make sure everyone in the company is on board and you have to make sure your product is something that is going to sell overseas. Is there a market for it?" said Cooper.

The latest U.S. Commerce Department numbers show Indiana is 13th in the nation in exporting with \$28.6 billion worth of sales in 2010. That is up from \$23.6 billion in 2009.

Cooper said the top 10 markets for Indiana products are Canada, Mexico, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Japan, China, Spain, Brazil and Australia. Of those, he said Canada and Mexico make up more than 45 percent of all Hoosier exports.

[Click here for more.](#)



Indiana University Health

IU Health LaPorte Hospital Expansion

IU Health LaPorte Hospital is planning a new 10,000 square foot addition to the hospital. The new maternity wing

will include 10 suites, two family refreshment centers, a centralized security monitoring system, three medical observations/examination rooms and an upgraded nurses' station. Each room will be approximately 355 square feet and will include a foldout couch, flat screen TV and Wi-Fi accessibility.

Source: The Herald Argus 3/12/2011

County Council Approves Expansion

LaPorte County Council members approved the construction of a 10,230 square foot building that will house Purdue Extensions and up to two other offices at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds. The project is expected to cost \$850,000, which will be funded from riverboat admissions and win tax funds from the Blue Chip Casino and from the county's cumulative capital development fund.

Source: La Porte Herald Argus 3/22/2011



Ben's Soft Pretzels Opens at Lighthouse

Ben's Soft Pretzels opened a new storefront at Lighthouse Place outlet center in Michigan City. The restaurant is located across from Old Navy and next to South Bend Chocolate Cafe.

Source: The South Bend Tribune 3/11/2011

Provided by CB Richard Ellis