



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Expansion Continues in Harvard; Groundbreakings Herald New Growth**

**HARVARD, IL** — Groundbreakings and expansion continue in Harvard, despite the economy.

**Arrowhead Industrial Park developer Mark Stricker** recently broke ground on a 42,000 square foot industrial building which will be offered for sale or lease as part of the park's 'Ready Inventory' strategy. The building sits on a 5.13 acre parcel in Phase III of the growing industrial park. It will feature four depressed docks with drive-in doors, a 21-foot clear span ceiling and be divisible down to 10,500 square feet.

"We designed the building to accommodate manufacturing and other industrial companies that are leaving Chicago and the northwest suburbs in an effort to reduce their overhead and operating costs," Stricker said. "Having a ready inventory of available buildings is important to making the short list on a site search. Having shovel-ready sites is essential for companies that want to build, but many companies want to move more quickly once the decision to relocate has been made."

Earlier this year, **Aero Industries, Inc.** announced that it would move its operations from Elk Grove Village to a 20,000 square foot industrial facility in Arrowhead that Stricker built in 2008. Ready availability was a big factor in the company's decision to choose Harvard as its new home, according to Aero president and co-owner Jim Clingingsmith.

More than 250,000 square feet has been built to date in Arrowhead Industrial Park. Phase II exceeded sales projections and Phase III opened earlier this year. The new industrial building is expected to be ready for occupancy before the end of the year. Call Stricker at (815) 943-8788 for more information.

**Harvard Community School District** is expected to break ground on a new elementary school later this month. The \$20.7 million project was approved by voters in a November 2008 referendum. The facility is expected to be open for the 2009/2010 school year. More information is available on the district's website at <http://cusd50.org>.

The **Harvard Economic Development Corporation (HEDC)** supported the school referendum, promotes Arrowhead to expanding companies and is now focused on mapping the city's developing retail districts to help site selectors and corporate real estate executives site their new stores in Harvard.

“We have identified six developing retail areas in town,” noted **HEDC Chairman Roger Lehmann of the Harvard State Bank**. The areas include the **McGuire Road/Airport Road** corridor (which is home to the new Walmart SuperCenter, a new Walgreens and Castle Bank’s new facility; **South Route 14** (where Tractor Supply opened earlier this year); **North Route 14**, where several retail strip centers are being planned; **East and West Route 173**; and **Downtown Harvard**, where a \$2.4 million streetscape project was completed last year.

The HEDC plans to produce a map outlining the six districts, which will be linked to retail listings in the Land & Sites database on its website at <http://harvardedc.com>.

The HEDC is also conducting a survey of all available retail properties within the city limits to add to the Land & Sites Database. Owners of business zoned land, buildings or other retail space are encouraged to contact **HEDC Executive Director Terry Smith** at (815) 943-1036 to learn how they can list their properties at no charge in the online database, which is actively promoted to nearly 1,000 site selectors each month.