

For Auto Parts City
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From: Jordan Madorsky
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Re: Auto Part City and First Midwest Bank
together again at Feb. 9 Commercial Mortgage Closing.

For Immediate Release

TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY AUTO RECYCLERS FIND CONFIDENT LENDER AND FAMILIAR FACES CLOSE TO HOME

Gurnee, Ill.--It gives Auto Parts City, Inc., (APC) owners, Larry and Jay Brosten, a certain sense of accomplishment to know they can still do business with the same people and institutions that were with them when APC got its start.

In 1984, the Brosten brothers, who are third-generation auto recyclers, sought to expand their operation to include an eight-acre salvage yard in Gurnee. At the time, Larry, Jay and their father, Hy, operated Hy-Way Auto Parts, Inc. in Wadsworth.

To finance the additional venture, the brothers turned to Tom Schwartz, who was a loan officer at First Midwest Bank. Since then, the Brostens, Mr. Schwartz and First Midwest have all flourished. In fact, Mr. Schwartz is now the President and CEO of First Midwest Bank.

So perhaps it's only fitting that the Brostens went back to First Midwest Bank when it came time to close on a commercial mortgage for their new and vastly-improved 19-plus-acre Auto Parts City, located across the street from the original facility.

"Lending to the Brostens in 1984 proved to be a smart investment, and we at First Midwest Bank are confident that lending to them in 2010 will prove to be a smart investment as well," Mr. Schwartz said.

The deal between APC and First Midwest Bank proves it is still possible for viable businesses to get financing for commercial ventures, even in an era when worldwide economic volatility makes headlines nearly everyday.

Like all small businesses owners, the Brostens have faced challenges. Shortly after acquiring the acreage for the new facility in 2007, real estate valuations plummeted. Adding to APC's short-term woes, falling commodity prices for the scrap steel and other metal commodities put a severe crimp in their operating revenue at their existing facility.

However, after nearly a decade of trying to win municipal approval and finally receiving conditional use permits (CUP) to build a modern auto recycling facility, the Brostens were determined to overcome all obstacles. "The past year has really tested our ability as small businessmen," Jay Brosten said. "But we decided early on that we were going to do what it took to complete our vision."

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Larry Brosten added, "Since we began this effort, we have tried to make the public aware of the importance of responsible auto recycling. The new Auto Parts City is the best, most environmentally sensitive facility of its type. Our association with First Midwest Bank shows that a community bank and a local business can work together to provide the wide range of services thriving communities need."

Auto Parts City is one of Larry and Jay Brosten's automotive businesses. The Brosten family has been involved in auto salvage and recycling since the 1930s. In 1976, Larry & Jay moved Hy-Way Auto Parts to its present location at Routes 173 and 41 in Wadsworth, IL. There, they created one of the nation's premier environmentally conscious auto recycling facilities. The site is next to the DesPlaines River and is surrounded by the Lake County Forest Preserve. In 2000, Ford Motor Company bought Hy-Way and changed the name to Greenleaf™. The Brostens remained on staff at Greenleaf for several years afterward as part of their management team. Ford sold Greenleaf in 2005.

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*To find out more about Auto Parts City new location, auto recycling or to arrange an interview with Larry or Jay Brosten contact: Jordan Madorsky 847.872.1628
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