



Industry likes Northfield

A concentrated effort aimed at recruitment and retention of industry has resulted in a number of new plants or plant expansions in Northfield in recent years.

Now a new business development team is gearing up to build on a solid industrial base and invite more businesses to locate here.

Cardinal CG, a maker of insulated glass products, is the newest member of the industrial family. It broke ground last spring on a new plant and since that time has broken all kinds of production records.

Malt-O-Meal, a breakfast cereal producer and longtime corporate resident, came soon after with the construction of two major warehouse facilities next to Cardinal.

Ryt-Way Packaging, a food packager, recently purchased the former 3M Dynacolor plant which closed in 1983, for expansion.

Computer Controlled Machines, a producer of precision corn cutting machines, recently built a new plant in Northfield's other industrial park south of town. Meanwhile, Fairway

Foods, a major food depot, and Sheldahl, an electronics manufacturer, have steadily increased their investment in the city, as has Northfield Equipment and Manufacturing, a producer of freezing systems for food processing, and Northfield Foundry, a manufacturer of machines and machine parts.

3M Dynacolors departure from Northfield did deliver a jolt to the town's economy, but the recession that preceded its closing had already left a deep impression on the minds of city leaders. With Northfield's high demand for services and considerable tax exempt property, it was obvious new taxable property was needed to sustain the community's quality of life.

The quality of life, a sharp, productive labor force and the proximity to the Twin Cities have been big pluses for Northfield.

The Star City committee is starting to branch outward, but it is not forgetting about the industries already here. Members are convinced the city's best bet is to nurture those companies already here and help small businesses get bigger.