



NEWS RELEASE

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BUSINESS ACQUISITION CONTINUES 88 YEAR HISTORY

Danville, IL. Vermilion Millworks, LLC, d/b/a Th Snyder Company starts a new chapter at its 640 E. Fairchild Street location today. Brad Irle, a manufacturing executive in the area for the last 18 years, with the support of private investors, City CDBG funding and the local Community Development Corporation (CDC), has purchased the assets of the business and today assumes the official role of owner and General Manager.

Originally called Elliot Millwork, the company was started in Danville in 1921. It was acquired by the Thomas Snyder family in 1979 to supplement their custom home building business in the affluent suburbs of Chicago. The company makes custom cabinetry and millwork for high end residential and commercial customers. In April of this year, Tom Snyder advised Vermilion Advantage that his age required that he pursue a sale of the business, or, if unsuccessful, a closure.

“One of the many reasons we have such an aggressive local business call program is to stay on top of the changing dynamics impacting our local business base,” said Vicki Haugen. *“The successful conclusion of this project combined a couple of our major objectives. One, is to retain a long-time existing business and two is to retain talented individuals. This acquisition accomplished both of these. Economic development is as much about retention as it is new business development any day of the week,”* she said. *You have to have a strong core upon which to build, and small, locally-owned businesses are still the backbone of this country. This project is particularly rewarding to our Vermilion Advantage team. It combines a lot of local resources, young, enterprising professionals happy to call this area home but not native to our county and a business with a long legacy primed for growth and new opportunity,”* said Haugen.

Brad and his family have been residents of Vermilion County since 1991 when Brad relocated from Chicago to the area to manage another family-owned business, Kowa Graphics. In 1998, after the local Kowa plant was idled as a result of a family business consolidation, Brad joined ThyssenKrupp and spent the last eleven years serving first as the Plant Manager of the Machining Division rising to the Corporate Executive Vice President of ThyssenKrupp Crankshaft in 2005 to 2009. *“My family and I have put down strong roots in Danville and Vermilion County. I’ve raised four sons here, my wife is a school teacher and we would like to remain in the area. This opportunity came along at the right time in my life,”* said Irle.

The purchase of the business will retain approximately 18 highly-skilled craftsmen. *“Our team bought the business because we think it has significant, untapped customer potential. We think the opportunity to grow the business well beyond what is has been in recent years, is very doable,”* Irle said. *“There are several potential customer groups that have gone untapped because of the businesses historical focus of serving its owners home building business. We’re ready to start recalling laid off employees a few at a time with the goal of making this business a viable part of Vermilion County’s economy once again.”*

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