



Over the past year and a half Sugar Grove has sustained a period of significant growth in commercial development. New retailers and restaurants have made sense of Sugar Grove's community, its disposable income, and the gaps in certain restaurant and retail categories; let alone the beginning of a resurgence in residential development here.



Important things are happening here in the industrial segment of the economy too. Nothing shows the viability of Sugar Grove as an industrial center, more than the growth seen in three local manufacturing businesses: Producers Chemical, Quantum Sign Corporation, and Selective Label and Printing. Since 2016 these three Sugar Grove companies have invested millions in their operations--an estimated \$3 million in real estate improvements, alone--amounting to 44,000 square feet of additional industrial space. Printing and manufacturing equipment, and a state of the art Tank Farm are also part of the investments. These new features have been added by these three companies, to accommodate anticipated growth in their respective markets and existing customer bases.

Producers Chemical is a family owned regional distributor of industrial chemicals, who started its operation in 1963, in Aurora, IL moving to Batavia, IL in 1967. Producers expanded their operation in a move to Sugar Grove in 2012, when they increased their operation from a small facility on 2.5 acres, to 8 acres on Sugar Grove's Bucktail Lane. This includes a 50,000 sq. ft. plant under roof. Producers Chemical's growth, including the new tank farm, added in 2016, has allowed for more services for their existing customer base. As a result, in 2017 they have seen their delivery of industrial chemicals increase by 23% (based on weight) over 2016. Producers Chemical CEO, Roger Harris says he sees the potential for even further growth in Sugar Grove, with the addition of a company lab at their Bucktail operation. Producers Chemical sales continues to grow, as does their employment. Personnel count is up 5% since the tank farm expansion, and they are looking to fill another 3 openings. Employment growth however, has become more and more difficult as the economy has reached full employment.

The move to Sugar Grove has exceeded Producers Chemical's expectations. They have found the Village to be a very welcoming location, with staff that is easy to work with.

Quantum Sign Corporation was started by Dave Stover, in Sugar Grove in 2001. Quantum is an advanced sign manufacturer serving a national marketplace from its Heartland Drive headquarters. Quantum Sign has seen steady growth in its operations, which warranted its recently completed 32,000 square foot expansion, more than doubling the size of their Sugar Grove facility. Mr. Stover likes the access to I-88 from his location and the existence of the amount of good manufacturing suppliers nearby in Illinois. His effort to increase skilled employment has been difficult. He sees the value in hiring veterans to be a larger part of Quantum Sign Corporation's work force. Quantum has increased their employment by 8% during their recent expansion, and sees the need to continue to hire, but they need help in finding skilled sheet metal mechanics, engineers and estimators. They are working with Waubensee Community College in finding employees with these skill sets.

Selective Label & Printing, Inc., a commercial printer, offering flexographic and digital printing, has been in business since 1995. They expanded their Route 30 Sugar Grove facility in 2017, adding 12,000 square feet to accommodate new press equipment and a shipping area. Their growth also included hiring several new employees. Selective Label uses local staffing agencies as a contractor for human resources, filling job openings as they arise. Selective Label has seen sales growth range from 8-12% over the past ten years. Selective's owner, Mike Brucher is one of many Sugar Grove business owners/managers who likes Sugar Grove's proximity to I-88. Mike sees the potential for Selective Label's future growth, given their prime location and business support from the surrounding community.

The Village is working to improve Sugar Grove's marketability to existing business growth and new business location. Sugar Grove is doing its best to expedite its permitting processes for expanding companies like these. Through the Sugar Grove Economic Development Corporation business outreach survey, Village staff understands that many Sugar Grove businesses are in a growth mode (32%), but most do not have enough property to expand at their current locations. Village staff has opened dialog with industrial developers to help accommodate industrial growth here.

The Village also is working to enhance communications infrastructure in the community, as called for in its interviews with local business executives. Discussions with communications companies to bring fiber optic capabilities to Sugar Grove are on-going. These communications service providers have learned how essential a competitive, state of the art communication network has become to a growing business community in Sugar Grove.