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Grafton manufacturer adding production area, office space to plant

Oetlinger Precision Manufacturing is poised for growth on several fronts, after receiving approval last month for three building projects from the Village of Grafton Plan Commission.

The largest of the company's projects will be the construction of a 20,700-square-foot warehouse and manufacturing addition to the east side of its building at 450 Ninth Ave. in Grafton. In conjunction with that expansion, a 1,426-square-foot office addition will be built onto the front of the building.

THE APPEARANCE OF the Oetlinger Precision Manufacturing property on the north side of Grafton is about to change dramatically, with the approval of three expansion projects. The manufacturing facility (above) will grow by more than 20,000 square feet, and new office space will be added to the front of the building on Ninth Avenue. Photos by Mark Jaeger

Those projects will increase Oetlinger's production facility to nearly 61,000 square feet. The expanded parking lot will have a capacity of 50 cars.

According to plans submitted to the village, the company currently has a workforce of 40 employees. Village officials said the added space will make room for the hiring of an additional 20 people.

On an adjoining parcel at 1058 Overland Ct., also owned by the company, a 3,879-square-foot accessory building will be erected for the storage of vehicles and equipment.

Company officials said weather concerns will delay the start of construction until early next year.

The company is owned by Frank and Barbara Oetlinger and Peter Thermansen.

Frank Oetlinger started the company in 1979 as a small tool-and-die shop operated out of the basement of his home.

After outgrowing that basement shop, Oetlinger moved the business into an empty warehouse in Milwaukee.

In 1990, he moved the growing business to its current site on the north side of Grafton.

Oetlinger Precision Manufacturing produces custom machine parts for companies in the heavy equipment, aerospace, marine and print industries.

According to the company's Web site, it found a niche in the area of spindle repair while servicing the 40 or so precision CNC (computer numerical control) machines it owns and operates.

The newest addition to its spindle repair business is a "clean room" facility to serve health-care and pharmaceutical industries that need precision parts that are completely dust and contamination free.

Oetlinger Precision has been ISO 9001 certified since 2004 and meets the updated requirements of Quality Assurance standards.