TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019:

What happened to the businesses located in the footprint of the future Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) Regional Medical Center?

Nearly two years ago, MVHS, Oneida County, City of Utica, The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties and Mohawk Valley EDGE made a commitment to provide relocation assistance to property and business owners within the footprint of the new regional medical center in downtown Utica. The goal was to make this a win/win for the City of Utica, with existing businesses relocating to other sites in the City or Oneida County.

The MVHS Board of Directors approved two major contributions to address property/business owners’ needs and concerns:

- Relocation funding for affected property owners in the project footprint was made available to support businesses looking to relocate within the City of Utica or Oneida County. (The funding was initially for up to $1 million but MVHS has provided well above that amount to help with relocation costs.) And of course this dollar amount does not include the money spent to acquire the individual properties.
- Property owners in the footprint of the new campus would not be responsible for addressing environmental issues caused by previous owners.

In addition to relocation assistance and remediation relief, a new full-time project coordinator was hired to help businesses identify potential options and funding for relocation.

Now that MVHS owns all the properties under the medical center footprint along with most of the surrounding properties, a key question is where the businesses relocated to. A number of businesses have relocated to other sites in the City of Utica. In fact, the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) held a ribbon cutting last week celebrating its new location in the “old Boston Store” on Genesee Street. Here are other businesses that have relocated to new locations:

- Clemente Novelties moved to 300 Catherine Street in Utica.
- Dataflow moved to 845 Broad Street in Utica. This move has given the owner the ability to expand when he’s ready and to put in the showroom he’s always wanted in order to display the large format graphics the firm does for museums and universities.
- ABC ChemDry moved to 1004 Erie Street in Utica.
- Urbanik’s Paints Co. moved to 1420 Oriskany Street West in Utica.
- Mohawk Hospital Equipment/Mohawk Healthcare moved to 247 Elizabeth Street in Utica (corporate headquarters).
- H.J. Brandeles Corp. moved to corner of Halsey and Judd roads in Whitestown.
- Dacobe Enterprises moved to 901 Broad Street in Utica.
- Park Outdoor Advertising moved to 2429 Chenango Road in Utica.
- Resource Center for Independent Living moved to 131 Genesee Street in Utica.
- Schmalz Mechanical Contractors moved to 1712-14 Bleecker Street in Utica.
- Turning Point Church moved to 932 Rutger Street in Utica.

There are also other businesses (such as The Plaza Deli) that are seeking new locations and some organizations and businesses chose to close rather than relocate.