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Meier Supply to nearly double size of Syracuse offices

Company considering new site in Albany area, moving Buffalo branch

By Greg Erbstoesser

Journal Staff

SYRACUSE — Johnson City-based Meier Supply Co., Inc., a wholesaler of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration equipment, is expanding on three fronts — including Syracuse.

Meier has commenced a near-doubling of the space at its 1043 Erie Blvd. East branch office, according to Frank A. Meier, Jr., company president.

On two other fronts and at opposite ends of the state, Meier is working to open the company's 16th store in the Albany area, as well as moving its Buffalo branch office to neighboring Cheektowaga, according to company officials.

Construction of the new 11,076-square-foot addition at the Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, store began in early February, and will increase the branch to a total of 24,336 square feet. The project cost was pegged \$365,000, according to city of Syracuse building-permit records.

The addition was necessitated because of space constraints and increased business, Meier says. He declined to name any new accounts or the disclose the amount of increased business at the Syracuse branch.

The addition, along with existing warehouse space will provide a total of about 15,000 square feet for warehousing operations, while a portion of the existing building will be remodeled to add additional office and retail space, according to Syracuse building officials.

Meier Supply will add an eighth employee — William Gleason, a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning specialist — to the Syracuse branch operations.

T.J. Madison Construction Co., Inc. of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Construction is underway at Meier Supply Co.'s newest addition on Erie Boulevard East in Syracuse. The \$365,000 project, begun in February, will add 11,076 square feet to the existing location.

Hillcrest, Broome County, is the general contractor for the Syracuse expansion project. Construction began in early February and is expected to be completed in about three to four months, according to Lisa M. Mayers, of The Write Strategy, an Endicott-based communications, public relations, and marketing consultant retained by Meier.

The Syracuse store first opened at 1200 Burnet Ave. in 1999, and moved to its current location five years ago.

While Meier declined to discuss the Albany addition, saying it was premature, the company already has assigned Christopher LaPlante, as branch manager, and a telephone number, to the Albany location, according to the company's Web site.

The current Buffalo branch, a leased property, is located at 519 Hamburg St.

Branch Manager Richard Pangrazi says the new store Meier is purchasing is about

the same size in floor space, but the new Cheektowaga building and property will be owned by the Meier company.

While Meier declined to reveal current sales figures, he told *The Business Journal* in 2005 that sales exceeded \$25 million.

Meier Supply today has a work force of about 100 full- and part-time employees. The company, which operates under an employee stock-ownership plan, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In addition to its Johnson City company offices and warehouse, Buffalo, and Syracuse, Meier has branch operations in Binghamton, Middletown, Rochester, and Utica. It also has eight branches in Pennsylvania: Allentown, Altoona, Erie, Harrisburg, Scranton, Stroudsburg, Wilkes-Barre, and Williamsport. □

Contact Erbstoesser at greg@tgbj.com