

Friday, May 23, 2008

Downtown U.S. Postal facility to move to Oak Creek

The Business Journal of Milwaukee

The United States Postal Service has acquired 64 acres in Oak Creek and will work with Milwaukee's Cobalt Partners to develop a new 820,000-square-foot mail processing and distribution center.

The Milwaukee Postal Service will move its distribution center from downtown Milwaukee to the Oak Creek site at the southwest corner of East College and South Pennsylvania avenues. But it has not decided if the vehicle maintenance facility, the retail counter and administrative offices currently located 345 W. St. Paul Ave. will also be moved to the new facility.

A U.S. Postal Service spokesman said some of the other services may also be moved to other Milwaukee-area location.

The price the post office paid for the 64 acres was not disclosed. The property was formerly known as the Van Beck Farm.

"We simply have outgrown our existing facilities," said David Martin, the district manager for the U.S. Postal Service Lakeland District in Milwaukee.

The U.S. Post office has operated out of the nearly 1 million-square-foot facility at 3456 W. St. Paul since 1970. The 9-acre site is considered a prime redevelopment location because of its proximity to the Milwaukee Intermodal Station and the new Harley-Davidson Inc. Museum.

The Postal Service conducted an intensive multiyear search that included many sites in southeast Wisconsin, said Scott Yauck, a principal with Cobalt Partners. Yauck said his company will submit preliminary plans for a light industrial distribution facility to the city of Oak Creek in early June.