

MEDIA RELEASE

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REDEVELOPMENT BRINGS NEW JOBS TO IONIA TOWNSHIP
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NAPA Auto Parts Retail Store to be Built

Ionia, MI – The site commonly known as “Orson E. Coe / Carter Motor Sales” will be redeveloped by MHC Inc. of Lowell, who intends to develop a NAPA Auto Parts retail store in Ionia Township. Ionia County and its Brownfield Redevelopment Authority supported the redevelopment project through the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brownfield assessment funds. The property operated as an automobile sales and service facility between 1956 and 2005. Brownfield assessment activities conducted by the BRA’s consultant, AKT Peerless Environmental Services of Lansing, included a Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessment and a Baseline Environmental Site Assessment, providing certain environmental liability protections for the new property owner. Environmental cleanup activities performed at the property included the removal of a gasoline underground storage tank discovered during the assessment project.

MHC Inc. intends to construct an 8,000 square food retail facility at the 3-acre parcel located at 1251 S. State Road. The project is expected to be completed and operational in the fall of 2009. MHC Inc. expects to employ up to 10 employees at the facility within four years.

Sam Tawney, president, MHC Inc. said “The partnership with Ionia County Economic Alliance really allowed us to purchase and develop of this site. The funds that were provided to perform the upfront work afforded us the opportunity to focus our efforts on providing a place of business that is not only useful for the community, but will provide increased tax base and on-going revenue. Perhaps the greatest joy is to be able to provide employment for the community and contribute to the economic development of the community as a whole.”

Diane Smith, executive director of the Ionia County Economic Alliance states, “We are excited about this project and it’s contribution to the continued success of the County’s initiative in brownfield redevelopment”. Other projects completed under the County’s program include the assessment and cleanup of the former Breimeyer Chevrolet site in downtown Belding, Village True Value Lumber in Lake Odessa and the Corner Landing Restaurant in Berlin Township.