

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Work begins on New Insurance Center of New England headquarters campus in Agawam.

The Insurance Center of New England announced today that construction has begun on its new headquarters campus, on Suffield Street, Route 75, in Agawam at the site of “The Oaks” a wedding and banquet facility that closed in 2009.

Located on Park Street in West Springfield since 1987, the Insurance Center of New England has outgrown its present location and is also pursuing a higher quality, *greener* and *healthier* work environment for its employees. The company has 35 employees at its West Springfield office and 30 employees at its *Heritage Insurance Agency* subsidiary in Gardner, MA. ICNE’s business is split evenly between its Personal Lines division and its Commercial Insurance/Employee Benefits division.

The interior of the new headquarters is being totally renovated and reconfigured into efficient office space with multiple conference rooms, and a modern exercise room for employees. A feature of the building will be windows that open to allow fresh air from the rural environment to flow through the building. The exterior façade will also be completely redesigned.

The exterior grounds of the ICNE “campus” will be renovated into a much greener, setting with extensive landscaping. One half of the currently paved area will be torn up and returned to grass, shrubbery and flowers. Along Suffield Street in front of the building, a 70-foot, three-foot-high retaining wall will be constructed of natural stone. Behind the new building will be a green-space and an employees’ communal vegetable and herb garden.

“The new Insurance Center “campus” is about much more than just bigger, better and more efficient space,” said David Florian, ICNE Chief Financial Officer. “This is a beautiful, rural location but still very easily accessible from Route 57 for our customers and clients. It gives us an opportunity to create a very special work environment, in complete harmony with our in-house *Employee Health & Wellness* program that everyone in the company is excited about. And we’re going to throw open the windows and let in the fresh air and the wonderful aromas of the grass, the trees and the flowers.”

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“Our in-house *Employee Health & Wellness* program has improved productivity and morale, and made The Insurance Center of New England a better place to work, “ continued Florian, “and that’s important to us. The new campus will continue that process,” he added.

General contractor of the project, which is scheduled for completion on December 1st, is Collins-Crochiere Construction of Wilbraham. The renovated building will also have an additional 5,500 square feet of office space available for lease.

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