

Tax break to bring in new jobs

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Litchfield, Mich. —

A local manufacturer is expanding its line of products as well as its number of employees. NEWCO Industries at 900 S. Anderson Road in Litchfield recently received a 12-year, \$1 million tax abatement which will be used for future equipment needs.

Plant manager Kevin Grossman said the company, which employs 65 individuals, is expanding into other markets which is also going to allow for the hiring of 15-20 additional employees within the next 8-12 months.

“By being diverse in a multitude of industries you’re not following the tailwinds of any downturn of any particular industry,” Grossman said. Grossman said the company has always focused on a number of markets because if there is a downturn, like there was in the automotive industry, the company has other options.

The company has been looking into a variety of different markets such as pool and spa, specialty vehicle chassis manufacturing and material handling, he said. Some of these industries will be with existing customers while others may be government work, he said.

Grossman credits much of his company’s growth to the Litchfield City Council and Litchfield Tax Increment Authority. “What Litchfield does for industry here is second to none,” he said. City Manager Doug Terry said Litchfield has been working at creating an environment where businesses can be competitive not only in the United States but throughout the world.

Terry said the city takes full advantage of all of the tax incentive the state allows it to offer area businesses and has granted NEWCO several tax abatements. By granting tax abatements, Terry said the city is allowing businesses the opportunity to grow.

Terry said it takes years to develop what the city has and it is fortunate to have “some pretty dedicated and very smart people that are involved who have helped make it possible.”

Grossman said another reason for the company’s growth is it worked with the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center on a program that was held in Lenawee County. During the program, Grossman said he learned about marketing and aligning the business with other companies that are in similar industries to find a customer base and finding hidden talents within the employees of the business.

Grossman said the program was originally created to help businesses in an area where there was a heavy presence of auto manufacturing.