

Plastics firm looks to expand

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Walk into a retail store like Wal-Mart or Walgreens and the sign systems denoting sale prices could have been made in St. Louis.

So could the large units of greeting-card displays in retail stores. Or the buoys in Lake Michigan or the Atlantic Ocean or the ventilation tubes in portable toilets.

These are among the many custom and varied plastic parts manufactured by Alpha Plastics Inc., headquartered in Woodside Industrial Park.

The family owned and operated custom profile extrusion company is preparing to expand.

With an investment of \$352,000, the

company will add two to the current 10 production lines and hire nine to the 55-member work force.

The company has requested a tax abatement on new real and personal property, which the St. Louis City Council will review June 19 following a public hearing.

If granted, the abatement would extend for seven years on equipment purchases of around \$335,000 and 12 years on the \$17,000 it took to remodel a tool room.

"This expansion will take us to a different playing field," said company vice president Heath Frillici, in charge of purchasing, inventory and management. "This gives us an opportunity to pursue more business."

New orders out of Indiana triggered

the expansion. The midwest primarily is the area where Alpha Plastic customers are based. But the company is not limited geographically.

Neither is it limited to styles, materials and colors, Frillici said. "We can color match anything to a specific color."

Frillici said many of the products "are things you don't pay much attention to when you walk into a store" like all the nameplate signs and pricing signs.

Company president Dennis Howe started Alpha Plastics in 1986. His daughter Amy, married to Heath, is controller. Daughter Shelly Buschle oversees human resources and payroll. Her husband, Dan Buschle, is vice president of engineering and sales. All three families reside in Alma.

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