

Milwaukee Small Business Times - February 7, 2006

Summit Place Lures another Tenant from Milwaukee

The Summit Place office complex in West Allis has lured another tenant away from downtown Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA) on Monday opened for business in its new headquarters location in 12,668 square feet of office space at Summit Place, located at 6737 W. Washington St., West Allis.

WDA and its 35 employees moved there from the Chase Tower, located at 111 E. Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Milwaukee, where it occupied about 11,000 square feet of space. The Wisconsin Dental Association's headquarters had been in downtown Milwaukee since the 1950s and in the Chase Tower since 1992, said WDA spokeswoman Carol Weber.

The association has 2,900 members, who are practicing or retired dentists. Summit Place provides a more convenient location for the association's headquarters, Weber said. "We are a statewide association," she said. "Our members are from all over the state. For a lot of members from small and rural communities, going (to the WDA headquarters) downtown wasn't appealing." The West Allis location is easier to get to for employees and members when they visit, and Summit Place has more parking, Weber said. "Parking was becoming a problem (at Chase Tower)," she said. On some occasions, visitors to the Chase Tower office were not able to find spaces in the parking garage, Weber said.

Summit Place is being developed by Whitnall Summit Co. in part of the former Allis Chalmers manufacturing complex. When it is completed, Summit Place will have about 630,000 square feet of office space.

Summit Place is snagging other office tenants away from downtown Milwaukee, most notably the headquarters of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin, which will move from 401 W. Michigan St. to Summit Place later this year. Summit Place has also landed several tenants from other suburban areas, including Alterra Healthcare Corp., which moved from the Milwaukee County Research Park in Wauwatosa.