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Pittsfield welcomes internationally successful manufacturing business

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Matthew Paulin, machinist, is holding a 9-bolt Pocketbook Grip and Randy Norton, machinist apprentice, is holding two mass air flow intake parts — MAF housings that fit Audis and Mustangs. (Courtesy)

PITTSFIELD — MRP Machine Co. LLC is coming to town. And with a healthy outlook on their niche in the manufacturing industry, they're looking to stay for the long run.

Owners Cyndi and Mark Paulin recently purchased an old Eversource Energy building at 23 Catamount Road in town. The Farmington-based company will be relocating to the area sometime during the last week of April.

It will continue to make mass air flow intake parts for the auto-world, and Pocketbook Grips for utilities and line-construction companies, and serve as a contract machine shop for local residents. It will also be operating under a new name — MRP Manufacturing LLC.

The company started as a small manufacturing company in 2001, mostly doing contract work before developing their own signature products in 2009.

The air flow intake pieces and Pocketbook Grips the company now makes are based on their own designs and are both sold internationally, though the latter is only sold as far away as Canada.

"It's been really exciting; it's a lot of fun," Cyndi Paulin said.

This niche production, she continued, has also helped to provide stability and sustainability for the business.

With new vehicle models constantly being produced, Cyndi Paulin said the company has been able to evolve as well.

"We continue to add new products based on customers' requests," she said. "Really our model has been to tend to the customers and what they want."

And Pocketbook Grips, which can be used for installing fiber optic networks, are part of a still growing industry as well. She believes that it will be more than a decade before sales for the

hand tool start to decline.

“We expect that to continue to work out well,” Cyndi Paulin said.

This strong foundation benefitted the company when its owners were looking for a new facility. The Paulins started to look for a new place when they realized they had grown too big for the Farmington location and didn’t have any more room to grow.

It took them a little more than a year to finally find the right spot.

“The building really was a really good fit,” Cyndi Paulin said. “We had a list of what we needed — that (building) hit 90 percent of what we were looking for.”

What drew them to Pittsfield, she said, was the fact that most of the businesses there are manufacturing as well.

Ted Mitchell, chair of Pittsfield’s Economic Development Committee, said he and other town officials are looking forward to having the new business in town, especially one that creates specialized products.

“That’s the kind of manufacturing we have in town,” he said.

Already, Mitchell said he’s reached out to the owners to welcome them to Pittsfield and get an idea of what the town might be able to do to help them.

“(The Economic Development Committee) has been actively trying to conserve businesses that are already in town,” he said. “We always reach out to new businesses when they come in and see how we can help.”

Cyndi Paulin said this warm welcome has been great.