

# \$21M Horizon Plan has Spirits Up in Norton

**N**ORTON — To facilitate a major company expansion, Horizon Beverage Co. has purchased the recently vacated General Motors distribution center and adjoining land here for just over \$21 million. The project will bring new jobs to Norton and generate significant new revenues for local businesses, company officials pledged this week in a press release.



Neil R. Markson

Goodman attorney Neil R. Markson, whose firm represented Horizon on the purchase and proposed expansion and assisted in permitting the project.

Work on the Norton building, which sits on nearly 56 acres, is expected to begin in early July. The renovated facility will be roughly double the size of its current Avon

location at 80 Stockwell Dr., a facility that was sold in conjunction with the purchase of the Norton facility. Horizon intends to move all 381 current employees to Norton, and will create another 35 positions. The firm estimates the relocation will result in another \$500,000 of annual spending with local businesses.

“This expansion project is not only good for Horizon, it is a real boost to the economy of Norton,” says VP of Operations and General Counsel Michael Epstein, and is considered especially fortuitous timing-wise following the departure of food services company Sysco after more than 30 years operating in Norton.

The Horizon relocation pact included



General Motors Plant, Norton MA

more than \$2.5 million in local and state tax incentives approved in March that made the project “financially feasible,” Epstein relays. The package was negotiated with the assistance of Medway based Business Development Strategies through the Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive Program, with elements including a state investment tax credit, tax increment financing and a personal property tax incentive. ■

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**McMAHON ARCHITECTS**  
535 ALBANY ST • BOSTON MA 02118  
www.mcmahonarchitects.com  
T: 617.482.5353

