



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, January 7, 2009

Contact: Jack P. Marschall
(440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

PARMA PARTNERS WITH MARC'S TO *PRODUCE* GOOD NEWS FOR CONSUMERS

(PARMA) – Parma Mayor Dean DePiero and Marc Glassman, owner of the Parma-based 54-store Marc's discount chain, officially opened business at the sprawling MGI Produce building on Corporate Drive in Parma. Mayor DePiero, Marc Glassman and others held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday afternoon.

“All indications are this giant distribution center will allow Marc's to bring its customers cheaper produce that is grown closer to home,” said Mayor DePiero. “That's great news for Marc's and a huge boost for our regional economy. To say we are pleased that it's located in Parma would be an understatement.”

The MGI Produce building was formerly occupied by Cleveland Growers Marketing Company for the past three years.

The distribution center is two blocks from Marc Glassman's corporate headquarters. According to Mike Tomko, Vice-President of Store Operations, that proximity will allow the company to obtain produce from local growers and save on transportation costs, savings it will pass along to its customers, he said.

According to ThePacker.com, the business newspaper of the produce industry, Marc's stores got their produce from Indianapolis-based Caito Foods Service Inc. before buying the Cleveland Growers facility. MGI Produce has a workforce of about 60 employees.

“We had the opportunity to purchase a state-of-the-art building right in our own backyard,” said MGI President Kevin Yaughner. “It gives us the opportunity to team up with growers directly. We want the best produce, and we want deals.”

In mid-July, Marc Glassman hired Ed Tousel, former Chief Operating Officer of Cleveland Growers, to run the new facility. He spearheaded the original construction of the distribution center.

(more)

“They’re a great company and I’m excited to be on board,” said Tousel, Director of Produce Operations. “I hope to take them to the next level. It’s going to be a great ride.”

Company officials say MGI Produce is expected to save more money on transportation costs when it opens a rail siding at the distribution center.

MGI Produce says it will likely bring in carrots, potatoes and onions and possibly citrus and apples by rail.

###