Alton construction company buys Belmont’s Wilcom building

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BELMONT — NorthLand Construction of Alton, which has purchased the former Wilcom manufacturing building on Route 3, across from the Belknap Mall, will move company headquarters there while also converting much of the space into storage units and professional offices.

Owner Timothy Suchocki, who closed on the property on April 17, said he was there the next day tearing down interior walls and cleaning up the parking lot to renovate the nine-acre property to its new uses.

Suchocki said the second floor of the 65,000-square-foot building, which has 16,000-square-feet with its own access from an upper parking lot, is configured for medical offices and is suitable for doctors, physical therapists, and rehabilitation services.

“The office space is available immediately, and I’m willing to reconfigure it any way they need,” he said.

NorthLand will be using the much of the first-floor office space for its headquarters, but there also is a section with professional office space that will be available.

The majority of the lower floor — originally a bowling alley and most recently manufacturing space for Wilcom Products, Inc. — is large enough to accommodate 160 storage units, Suchocki said. He plans to have an on-site manager to oversee the heated storage space, and security features will include motion detectors and cameras. He will be upgrading the building’s sprinkler system to accommodate the new units, he said.

Suchocki expects the storage units will be ready in time for a July opening, and he plans to add exterior units after that.

NorthLand also has been cleaning up the outside property, removing trees that had grown up near the building and cleaning up the parking lot in preparation for offering boat and recreational vehicle storage toward the back of the lot.

The company also has a marine division that builds residential and commercial boat docks, breakwaters, and boathouses, and Suchocki’s Connecticut-based highway construction company, Suchocki & Son, Inc., also will be operating from the Belmont property to handle anticipated jobs in New Hampshire.

“We really enjoy this area,” he said. “Belmont is an up-and-coming place, with friendly people and beautiful scenery, and we’re happy to be here.”

Wilcom Products, Inc., a manufacturer of telecommunications test equipment and components, has relocated to smaller quarters in Meredith.

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tage and honor the dead. But removal of the monuments has drawn praise from those who saw them as brutal reminders of slavery and symbols of the historic oppression of black people. Landrieu called for the monuments’ removal in the lingering emotional aftermath of the 2015 massacre of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church. The killer, Dylann Roof, was an inveterate racist who branched Confederate battle flags in photos, recharging the debate over whether Confederate emblems represent racist and honorable heritage.

While Roof’s actions spurred a debate in many parts of the South about whether it was appropriate to fly the Confederate battle emblem — and many places have taken it down — the reaction in New Orleans seemed to go even further, knocking away at even weightier, heavier parts of history.

Landrieu drew blistering criticism from monument supporters and even some political allies. But in explaining his reasoning, the mayor has repeatedly said they do not represent the diversity and future of New Orleans. These statues are not just stone and metal. They are not just innocent remembrances of a benign history. These monuments celebrate a fictional, sanitized Confederacy; ignoring the death, ignoring the enslavement, ignoring the terror that it actually stood for,” he said Friday.

“After the Civil War, these statues were a part of that terrorism, as much as burning a cross on someone’s lawn. They were erected purposefully to send a strong message to all who walked in their shadows about who was still in charge in this city,” he added.