Grove “quality of life” hopes to entice more businesses

David Moritz in front of the wall in New York of trophies created by Society Awards. The company will warehouse and engrave trophies at the new facility to open in Grove in August.

Lower costs and a great community continues to draw new businesses to Grove, as well as bring old residents back.

One example is Society Awards created by its CEO and Grove graduate David Moritz.

Society Awards designs and manufactures high end custom awards and recognition products.

The soon to open warehouse and distribution center in Grove will house trophies and awards made at other locations. Some of the awards will also receive engraving and finishing touches in Grove.

Moritz starting looking for a small town in the midwest to expand his business and with his hometown of Grove looking to attract new businesses, the timing could not have been better for him to open a warehouse here,
according to his parents Susan and Ruby Moritz.

“The town of Grove was exceptionally welcoming to Society Awards. Everyone from the Mayor Marty Follis, to the City Manager Bruce Johnson to Ed Townsend, the owner of the Bank of Grove, were extremely helpful in facilitating the expansion. We are excited for this next chapter for Society Awards and to become part of the growing business community in Grove,” David Moritz said.

“Society’s expansion brings a red-carpet glamour to Grove that is appealing and intriguing – now Grove can say that most of entertainment’s most famous award show trophies are right in their backyard,” Katherine McPherson, Society Awards Public Relations Director said.

“From the Golden Globes to the MTV Movie Awards, many of these famous trophies will now be housed in the Grove facility,” said McPherson.

The City of Grove gave Society Awards the land to build the warehouse in the Grove Industrial Park with the stipulations that they have to build the warehouse facility, it has to be open and they have to employ at least four people, according to Bruce Johnson.

“And they will continue to be there for many years to come. We expect that to be just the beginning of our relationship with Society Awards,” Johnson said.

“We expect them to grow a bigger presence here in Grove. Not only based on warehousing, but hopefully on other parts of David Moritz's company. At some point in time as those grow and he expands those we want to be the first person in line that he talks to when it comes to hiring and investing capital into his company hope he invests that hiring and capital here,” he said.

Mode Design Group

Another part of Moritz's partnership with the city is Mode Design Group a marketing side to Moritz's companies.

Initial discussions include Mode Design Group helping Grove with marketing materials. This will allow the city to go out and bring more businesses to town.

“This will allow us to do exactly what we did with him. Bring in addition companies that are bringing back jobs in Grove that are employing people in a variety of areas. Whether it be industrial, whether it be factory, or warehousing or in this case too, into marketing,” said Johnson.

Marketing is one of the areas that Johnson said he is very glad that Moritz has brought with him. “It was an area that fundamentally we were deficient in. It was not one of our strengths and we're glad that he's bring his strength to partnership and coordinate with us,” Johnson said he hopes this will help them share with the rest of the world the kind of great community we have here in Grove.

Johnson believes this kind of partnership is one way that will help "Grove continue to grow and continue to have our quality of life and to keep our cost of living down," he said. “You can't beat the high quality of life and the low cost of living we have here.”

We have excellent education opportunities here from Kindergarten all the way through higher education, we have the ability to have a 40 hour a week work day, then recreate on holidays and weekends that are second to none.

If given the opportunity to encourage other business to Grove, Johnson said what people need to know most about is our quality of life. We are not deficient here of anything including a competent and capable workforces Johnson said.

Vision Vodka and Gabrielle Wine

Besides his interests in awards and marketing, Moritz has worked hard to arrange for another part of his endeavors, Vision Vodka and Gabrielle Wine, to be available in Oklahoma. Gabrielle (a sparkling wine) will be available starting in August. Vision Vodka is already available in not only Oklahoma but at some restaurants in Grove and the Grand Lake area.

There are two flavors of Gabrielle – a brut and a rose, they are made in New York State, at the oldest winery in the U.S. and have received praise from critics for their light, flavorful taste. Both Vision and Gabrielle are sold at upscale venues around New York City, and are American-made products.