

St. Tammany News

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» **business notes**

Bevolo opening warehouse locally

Bevolo Gas and Electric Lights, a worldwide leader of handmade copper and gas electric lights, plans to bring 100 jobs to St. Tammany with the opening of a 25,000-square-foot warehouse facility near Covington.

The facility, expected to open soon in the Alamosa Business Park off of Louisiana Highway 59, is a feather in the cap for St. Tammany Parish industry, one that sends a strong message to other CEOs looking to relocate on the Northshore, said St. Tammany Economic Development Foundation Executive Director Brenda Reine-Bertus.

"Bevolo's success is a boon for St. Tammany Parish and is another testament to the business-friendly atmosphere our community offers," she said.

Founded in 1945 in the French Quarter, Bevolo opened a smaller production facility near Covington after Hurricane Katrina. In April, Bevolo opened a retail storefront on La. 59 in Mandeville, the company's first retail-only endeavor.

"This Northshore facility runs like a well-oiled machine," said Chris Bevolo of the Covington-area factory. "It's helping us move forward as opposed to idling."

in contracts with different firms. Unable to change corporate policy, Durst decided to start his own firm. He combed the area and found self-motivated agents with similar philosophies to start the company on 22 St. Ann Street, Suite 1, across the street from the United States Post Office.

Durst co-founded the company with Liz Vollenweider and has hired Susan Rink, Philip Riddlebarger and B.J. Margiotta. The company will serve St. Tammany and its surrounding areas, including swaths of New Orleans.

Durst, originally a real estate agent from Maryland, moved to Mandeville in 2004.