



## Portage Health Center to Expand

by Susan Erler

Ravi Chopra's career path took a sharp turn more than 25 years ago when the former steel industry engineer began developing health care facilities. The C/N Group, made up of Chopra and his sons, Raman and Rajiv, will break ground in a few weeks on it's latest project, an addition to the Portage Health Center on U.S. 6 in Portage. The Expansion will make room for an additional nine or ten physicians' practices at the health center, adding to seven or eight practices already there. Construction is expected to take nine months. Built a decade ago the health center was bursting at the seams as physician interest grew in the quickly expanding Portage area, Raman Chopra said.

"Portage has come a very, very long way" in the 10 years since the Chopras opened the Portage Health center, Raman Chopra said. The health center expansion, which is pending final permits, is part of a larger development by the C/N Group, including a dozen townhomes already built and plans for more townhomes, a pair of restaurants and a bank. Patriarch Ravi Chopra made his foray into developing health care facilities in 1984, with the construction of a magnetic resonance imaging site built for the Methodist Hospitals' system in Merrillville, Raman Chopra said.

Ravi, who had immigrated from India, had worked in management as an engineer for area steel manufacturers, just as the industry entered a period of downsizing and consolidation. "At some point in the late 1970's, he decided to make a career change," Raman said. Work as a stockbroker and financial planner led to interaction with physicians on how to run their practices and build facilities, Raman Chopra said. "It was a complete and total change from being in the steel industry," he said.

Ravi's first project, the Methodist Hospitals, MRI facility in Merrillville, has grown to include more than a dozen facilities in Northwest Indiana and in upstate New York, including medical office buildings, ambulatory surgery centers and diagnostic imaging centers, Raman said. C/N Group projects total about 175,000 square feet and add up to \$75 million in investment, Raman Chopra said. Continues expansion in the Portage area is under consideration, including the possibility of an MRI diagnostic facility there, he added.

"We're consistently looking for opportunities," Raman said.

### *About The C/N Group*

*The C/N Group, Inc. is a recognized leader in the development, ownership and operation of exceptional healthcare facilities, including ambulatory surgery centers, diagnostic imaging centers, and multi-specialty clinics. Family-owned and operated, the company employs more than 200 people between its Midwest and Northeast regional markets.*

*Founded in 1980, The C/N Group began offering consulting and management expertise to the health-care industry. During its initial decade of operation, the firm's primary focus was physician practice management and practice consulting. Starting in 1984, however, the firm expanded its core competencies which grew to include the development and day-to-day operation of healthcare facilities.*

*Specifically, the C/N Group opened the Chicago area's second free-standing diagnostic imaging facility in early 1985. More than twenty years later, the C/N Group remains dedicated to the diagnostics field and looks forward to expanding its markets and facilities.*