Rutgers bringing food technology to Bridgeton

By JENNIFER BYRNE
Staff Writer

BRIDGETON — Rutgers University has taken another nibble out of Bridgeton.

And restaurant patrons and food shoppers here may soon be nibbling on tastier food as a result of the university's latest project in the city.

Cook College's Center for Advanced Food Technology recently sent Bridgeton a memorandum of agreement which will provide for the opening of a research and production facility for food technology in Bridgeton.

"From the time food leaves the farm to the time it hits your plate, we will now have a facility in town to do hard research on those questions," Mayor Michael Pirolli said.

Pirolli said the center's services will be available to all aspects of the food industry here, and will include guidance on food packing, bacteria prevention, preparation, and distribution.

"This is really going to be beneficial to our existing businesses," Pirolli said.

"It will be helpful in luring additional food service businesses to the city."

Pirolli cited the Northland Cranberry Company, located on Bank Street, as a business that could potentially benefit from the center.

The Wisconsin-based company is considering the possibility of selling the Bridgeton facility as part of a financial restructuring.

"They're a good example of a company which may be able to take advantage of the services Rutgers will be offering," Pirolli said.

The Center for Advanced Food Technology is the latest of several Rutgers projects that have been making their home in Bridgeton lately.

Rutgers Marine and Coastal Science will soon locate its Marine and Coastal Sciences at Bridgeton's historic Shepard House.

In addition, Rutgers' Center of Management and Entrepreneurship has offered to help Main Street Bridgeton with its downtown survey. The university will assist in this by interpreting the data collected and offering input.

Rutgers has also offered to help the city with business contacts, and assist existing businesses with merchandising and advertising.

Pirolli said the Rutgers-Bridgeton connection is no coincidence.

"This is something we've definitely sought out for the city," he said. "Un-

(See RUTGERS, Page A-5)