



**ESSEX COUNTY IN THE PARK
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Chesterfield's Commerce Park ready for business

By: Whitney Jackson

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CHESTERFIELD – Chesterfield is preparing for the future.

The town of Chesterfield and Essex County Industrial Development Agency hosted a ceremony in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform and New York State Empire Development Oct. 13 to celebrate the shovel-ready status of the Chesterfield Commerce Park.

Sites that are certified as "shovel ready" have gone through a process that results in a location that is ready for business to move in quickly. At the Chesterfield site, there are potentially 14 specs for business to develop.

Town Supervisor Gerald Morrow said the sites are needed to help further business development. Shovel ready sites mean permits are quickly achieved. With a "business friendly" attitude, the potential for job creation is enormous, he said.

The process for certification began in 1998. The board has been working with the Essex County IDA. The board purchased the land as part of a 241 acre deal for \$150,000. Other parts of the land have been slated for senior housing and youth recreation projects. The site has worked with the Adirondack Park Agency, IDA, and Empire Zone to achieve the necessary permits. Usually there are five layers of permitting necessary, but for the sites the process is reduced for efficiency.

Essex County IDA co-executive director Jody Olcott said the idea is to bring in environmentally-friendly businesses. The proposed site designs have an Adirondack flavor, and can be used for manufacturing, warehouse and distribution or assembly.

Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward said the Chesterfield site is right on a major trade corridor between Montreal and New York City. Its location near the Northway is a major benefit.

Currently nine sites of the 72 acres have been certified. Four of the lots have been cleared and offer water, sewer, road and electric hook-ups. If a business purchases a lot, it can be ready for development within days.

Three of the lots, including one which is cleared, are in the process of being sold to the IDA for a business which is looking at moving in. The 12.6 acres are being sold at \$12,000 an acre.

"The dream finally came true for us. It's been a long time coming," said Chesterfield Councilman Richard Klages. "It doesn't happen overnight – it sometimes takes year. You've got to keep after it."

The site is listed on www.shovelreadyny.com, which promotes the location.



The Chesterfield town board celebrates the "shovel ready" status of the Chesterfield Commerce Park. The status helps expedite the permitting process to attract business.

Photo by Whitney Jackson