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## **E'town deli gives way to Essex County IDA**

**By LOHR McKINSTRY, Staff Writer**

ELIZABETHTOWN -- A popular Elizabethtown eatery will close forever Friday to prepare for conversion to county offices.

The Essex County Industrial Development Agency bought Evelyn's Bakery and Deli on Court Street, and will move there after the first of the year.

Bakery owner Evelyn Hatch is retiring, but will continue to live in an adjacent house. The IDA will get her 1,200-square-foot building and some land for \$150,000, but Hatch will retain the restaurant equipment, County Board of Supervisors Vice Chairman Noel Merrihew III (R-Elizabethtown) said.

IDA Co-Director Jodie Olcott said her agency, which has been searching for new quarters, finally found a site.

"We are in the process of buying Evelyn's Bakery. She's done Friday; that's her last day."

In addition to becoming the IDA headquarters, the new location will also house County Empire Zone offices that will relocate from the Moriah Town Hall.

Zone Coordinator Barbara Brassard said her operation will move to the present IDA offices in Elizabethtown on Dec. 21, then on to the new building when that is ready. The economic development zone lost most of its state funding, and the county agreed to give it more financial assistance.

The IDA has been located in rental space on Church Street in Elizabethtown for decades, and that building, which also houses the Adirondack Council, is owned by Kevin Hall.

IDA officials said they needed more space and privacy than their present site could offer.

County Economic Development, Publicity and Planning Committee Chairman Joseph Kelly (D-Minerva) joked that the IDA could continue to serve food once it moves in to its new workspace.

"What will your specialty be?" Kelly said.

"We only have a microwave and a toaster," Olcott said.