



Creativity and Imagination Puts Hamilton on the Move

*by John K. Rafferty, Executive Director,
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The older areas of any town sometimes need a little special attention. The years certainly take their toll. I spoke with Hamilton's Economic Development Director Michael Angarone about a certain promising development in one of Hamilton's older neighborhoods: the Bromley area bordering the city of Trenton.

Bromley once was host to internationally known DeLaval Industries, Acme Rubber, Congoleum, Bayer Aspirin and Atlantic Products. Isles, a nonprofit community development and environmental organization, has purchased the former Atlantic Products building to create special artist studios along with residential loftsto accommodate professional artists.

"This is a plan in the making and the initiative came through Isles," says Angarone, indicating the Township is very interested in the creative ideas involved in the project. From all indications, Hamilton Mayor John Bencivengo intends to lend his full support to the project.

Located in Bromley is J. Seward Johnson's international showcase, the Grounds for Sculpture, a member of the Hamilton Partnership. Mayor Bencivengo has commented on the potential for Bromley to become a cultural district with the Grounds serving as an anchor.

Angarone continued, "The popularity of Grounds for Sculpture grows considerably every year and people from around the globe come to the gardens to view the artistic creations of Mr. Johnson along with other world renowned artists. He has placed his sculptures all the way along East State Street Extension, down Klockner Road to the Hamilton train station. These are

impressive artistic presentations," added Angarone.

Marty Johnson, CEO of Isles, has been working on the project for many months. "We have architectural and planning professionals developing an initial rendering that should be completed for presentation in the beginning of 2009," he said.

The Atlantic Products' building sits on two acres of a six acre parcel. "This is a challenging effort coupled with positive potential that we find extremely exciting. We intend to utilize LEED (Leader in Energy and Environmental Design) requirements in this project. LEED minimizes the impact of natural resources. Constructing 'green' is the environmentally sound way to proceed and will save everyone involved considerable money in the long term," Johnson said.

Isles is communicating with Bromley residents, informing them of their intentions and promoting the project in an open manner. Their intentions are being introduced early and unhurried so that questions and concerns may be aired by local residents and addressed by Isles, allowing the best possible scenario for the benefit of the Bromley residents.

It seems this opportunity is a sleeper that may provide a renaissance for Bromley that could blossom into something very special.

About The Hamilton Partnership

The Hamilton Partnership, a nonprofit corporation, is a vital forum for the advancement of Hamilton Township's economy. For twenty years, the organization has fostered a critical dialogue with local officials to retain local businesses, attract new commerce, and help business owners capitalize on emerging opportunities while conveying and preserving the spirit and values that are part of Hamilton's quality of life. For more information about the Hamilton Partnership, please call (609) 947-6187.