



# NEWS TO KNOW

## **"Business Friendly" Benefits Everyone**

*by John K. Rafferty, Executive Director, The Hamilton Partnership*

*"The closest distance between two points is a straight line."*

At The Hamilton Partnership, we have an abiding commitment to help businesses invest in Hamilton Township and work with local government to keep these projects on track. The nature of government can slow down critical business matters but cooperation and communication between government leaders and business owners can help, especially when it comes to clarifying and expediting the land use process.

During the last few months, The Hamilton Partnership has worked with local officials on a range of challenges affecting multi-million-dollar corporate projects such as Ohio-headquartered Stanbery Development Corporation's Shoppes at Hamilton currently under construction at Route 130 South to smaller local business operations situated in the inner-areas of our community. In each case, these parties have benefited from The Hamilton Partnership's assistance in navigating the township's regulations and processes.



*Executive Director Jack Rafferty with Partnership Chairman Michael Pratico at the site of the new Shoppes at Hamilton*

Our local government has been responsive to the business community and we are pleased they have invited us to work with them in their review of current policies affecting the permitting process. Mayor John Bencivengo and Michael Angarone, Hamilton's economic development director, have shown their commitment to making the land use process as simple as possible.

When a property owner wants to begin a project, the first step is to go to the municipal building and confer with a township land use official prior to involving paid professionals such as an attorney, architect and engineer. This can be the beginning of a complicated process. These projects require constant communication and clarity so that business

professionals can make informed decisions about their project and avoid unnecessary work and costly delays.

We are also working together to clarify confusing applications and forms; eliminate unnecessary paper work; and remove redundant steps in the process. Ultimately, business owners will save time and money, allowing them to invest their dollars in their business and the township's economic future.

It is a pleasure working with enthusiastic and knowledgeable business leaders who are optimistic about their community. To work with them, and a town hall that cooperates by listening and responding to their input, is a rewarding experience.

The public and private sectors recognize these are important investments resulting in more employment, services and tax ratables for our township. It's an exciting time when everyone is committed to bring new investments to Hamilton and keep existing projects moving toward completion. If you are a business owner, please join us in our cooperative effort to keep Hamilton the success that it is.

### **Member Spotlight**

J. Seward Johnson is placing new sculpture along the streets connecting the Hamilton Train Station and Sculptor Way. The Hamilton Partnership has been working with local officials and Partnership member Grounds for Sculpture to establish the sites for Johnson's new installations. Hamilton is the international headquarters for Johnson's Atlantic Foundation, Johnson Art and Education Foundation, and The Sculpture Foundation, Inc., headed by Michael Unger, chief administrative officer.

### **About The Hamilton Partnership**

The Hamilton Partnership, a non-profit 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