

Islip's IDA Efforts Attracts New Business, Retains Another



M & M Awning's products can be found across Long Island, including this poolside awning at Huntington Yacht Club.

ISLIP — Islip Town officials have given their approval to two Industrial Development Agency (IDA) inducement resolutions that will bring a new business to the Town, while allowing another to expand.

[M & M Canvas & Awning](#) is relocating from Huntington to a 20,000 square foot facility at 80 Oval Drive in Islandia. Some \$2 million is being invested that will allow the company to meet increased demand for their products, which includes manual and motorized retractable awnings for clients such as [Madison Square Garden](#), [Radio City Music Hall](#) and [Carnegie Hall](#).

In 2013 the company grew 60 percent, which prompted the search for a larger facility. [M & M executives site Islip Town's central location on Long Island](#), and the attractive IDA incentive package as reasons why they chose to relocate. Town officials said 25 jobs will be created and 15 jobs will be retained.

"Islip is very pro-business," said [Michael Mere](#), president and owner of M & M Canvas and Awning. "Not too many other townships on Long Island are geared for manufacturing."

Also, [Carson Optical](#), a leading manufacturer of magnifiers in the United States, is relocating from its current 24,000 square-foot Hauppauge facility to a 50,000 square foot location at 2070 Fifth Avenue in Ronkonkoma.

Town officials said Carson plans to invest more than \$3 million to improve and equip the building to allow for further growth in researching and developing optical equipment such as telescopes, binoculars and magnifiers. The company's products are sold in several leading retailers including [Wal-Mart](#), [Walgreens](#), [Radio Shack](#) and [Office Depot](#). A total of eight full-time jobs will be added as a result of the expansion, and 25 retained.

As a result of the efforts from the IDA and approval from Islip Town, both companies will receive financial benefits that

include a 10-year abatement on property taxes and exemptions from mortgage taxes.

"This board is 100 percent committed to promoting economic development in Islip Town, and go to great lengths to ensure that qualified companies are aware of the variety of benefits of doing business here," said Councilman John C. Cochrane, Jr., Economic Development liaison. "At the end of the day, the more businesses located in Islip Town, the better for our taxpayers."