



Class “A” Business and Professional Center Being Built in Lakewood

Mark Chopp, Lakewood, a developer and president of Lakewood Equity Group, has broken ground on a 60,000-square-foot office building at 15 America Avenue and the corner of New Hampshire Avenue, Lakewood, on property sold by the Lakewood Industrial Commission (LIC). The four-story Class A office building, with easy access from either New Hampshire or Cedar Bridge avenues, is designed as a business and professional center, with about 15,000 square feet of space on each floor.

The building will be constructed of a mixture between sleek to modern designs with large windows in every office, and individualized heating and cooling. The first two floors will accommodate small to mid-sized tenants who need between 1,500 to 3,000 square feet of space. The top floors are being reserved for tenants needing larger space.

Ray Builders, a company that has built more than \$400 million in projects in the tri-state area, including Manhattan, are the builders for this project.

Chopp said he decided to build this “premier” office building for several reasons. “In Lakewood, the focus has been on housing, but there is a definite need for office space. We decided to purchase land on New Hampshire and America Avenue for our office building because that area is less congested than Lakewood proper. Also, having access to the Garden State Parkway with the almost completed North and South on and off ramps, and the Lakewood Airport will definitely make access to our office building desirable.”

Chopp says he expects the building to be completed in about 14 months once construction begins. Chopp’s latest building endeavor, a 30,000-square-foot building on Fourth Street and Monmouth Avenue, is fully rented with 24 tenants from Brooklyn and Rockland County, as well as other towns in New York and New Jersey. He has already begun to fill his new building with companies, ranging from technology and high tech companies, to start-ups, the food industry, and health care companies, among others.

Steve Reinman, executive director of the Lakewood Industrial Commission, said, “Mark Chopp is attuned to the Lakewood office rental market and the need we have for professional space here. Lakewood is a great environment for this project and the many jobs it will bring to Lakewood. Upscale professional office

space in this location will be a great enhancement to our Industrial Park area and will complement other new development that is underway.”

Chopp praised Lakewood Township officials who he said are committed to making Lakewood business friendly. “I especially thank Committeemen Menashe Miller and Isaac Akerman for their help; and LIC Executive Director Steve Reinman, Anita Doyle, and Trish Komsa from the UEZ for their assistance. These people are fantastic and totally focused on working for the benefit of the township.”

For more information about the project or about leasing space, contact LG Properties at 908-770-3407.

by Frances A. Kirschner | Frantasy Enterprises
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