



1405 South Main St., Medina, NY 14103
(585) 798-4316
 www.ortansford.com
 Sales & Service Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-9pm, Sat. 8am-5pm

Related Stories

BDN NEWS

- Wonderland of Trees gets gala opening
- Pavilion Accident
- Saturday's lottery numbers
- Sunday's lottery numbers
- Radio DJ does holiday food drive in trailer

BDN LATEST NEWS

- Wonderland of Trees gets gala opening
- Radio DJ does holiday food drive in trailer
- Kendall bids a fond farewell to school nurse
- Students take final-step in service academy pursuit
- Q & A: Hyde in it for the long run

Save up to 50% on ink and #NeverRunOut
 HP Instant Ink [LEARN MORE](#)

Helena Chemical's Ridgeway move begins

By JIM KRENCIK
 JKRENCIK@BATAVIANEWS.COM
 PUBLISHED: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015 AT 12:30 AM

ATL [Log In](#) [Tweet](#)

RIDGWAY — Of all the land reserved for business development in Orleans County, a section of undeveloped farmland on a dead end road was the property that made sense for Helena Chemical.

Work is now beginning on a \$4 million project that would build a 75,000-square-foot, six-building complex east of the village of Medina that received planning approval nearly a year ago and would move the specialty distributor's local operation from a cramped office in Albion.

The site is not eyed for agri-chemical manufacturing, but would give Helena warehousing space for liquid fertilizers, processed plants and dry components and easy distribution to farm consumers across Western New York.

"The move to Ridgeway will allow us to offer more products and services," said branch manager Mitch Wilber. "The quality of the agriculture is what brought us here; there are good farmers growing good crops."

According to the company's 2014 projections, 12 full-time and six part-time employees would be needed for full build-out of the 10-acre property.

While the project will bring an end to a process for Helena that began with a previous attempt to relocate to a rural property in Albion, Ridgeway officials celebrated construction as the culmination of a six-year effort to create a business zone in town.

The compact area around Medina — split between the towns of Shelby to the south and Ridgeway to the north — is the main focus of the county's economic development, with large manufacturing buildings and "shovel-ready" business parks being put forward when projects are proposed.

Nearly all — from a Park Avenue cluster of manufacturers to the Medina Business Park and recently-acquired Keppler site — sit south of the Ridgeway-Shelby line, a condition Supervisor Brian Napoli said was an issue that received a long-term view.

"Prior to 2009, we didn't really have any industrial sites in town," Napoli said. "After meeting with our EDA, we found a few suitable pieces of land, including the one on Allis Road, and decided to be proactive to ensure available land in Ridgeway would be ready for future prospects."

The roadway cut south of Route 31 and could connect to an existing rail line used by the nearby Brunner International and Western New York Energy sites, with a Baptist church the only existing structure nearby.

Helena's project was not on the radar at the time of Ridgeway's rezoning, but that was the point, Orleans EDA Vice President Gabrielle Barone said.

"What we believed then, and continue to reinforce to our communities, is that we need sites ready and waiting when the right project does come along," Barone said. "The town of Ridgeway demonstrated they wanted more development and became full partners in keeping Helena Chemical in Orleans County and bringing the project to fruition."

Helena Chemical offered a secure partner, with a base of 450 branches across rural America and major segments of the crop protection, special nutrient and seed treatment industries. In Orleans County, it was a business that needed open space and was committed to building.



Search...



Its site calls for buildings of more than 50,000 square feet of storage space, with accessibility via rail and truck traffic that could be on the Thruway with a handful of turns.

Allied Builders is leading the construction of this project, which would be completed next spring. OEDA CEO Jim Whipple said the work really began with the town's thinking in 2009.

"Good development opportunities do not just happen here," Whipple said. "Development opportunities come about as the result of years of strategic planning and anticipating how we can make the most of our available land and resources. The need may not be apparent right away, but we are ready and waiting when it is."

Commenting rules:

1. Stick to the topic of the article/letter/editorial.
2. When responding to issues raised by other commenters, do not engage in personal attacks or name-calling.
3. Comments that include profanity/obscenities or are libelous in nature will be removed without warning.

Violators' commenting privileges may be revoked indefinitely. By commenting you agree to our full Terms of Use.

0 Comments

Sort by



Add a comment...

 Facebook Comments Plugin