Farmingville, NY - Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward P. Romaine said chambers of commerce and the small businesses they represent are important drivers of economic activity in the town and are intertwined with the town's largest businesses.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our town," Romaine told more than 170 business owners, members of Town of Brookhaven's various chambers of commerce, who gathered Sept. 15 at Brookhaven Town Hall for a networking breakfast hosted by the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency.

The IDA this year has undertaken 12 projects in the past year that brought in $300 million in industry into the town, Romaine told the gathering, noting that the new and expanding businesses helped by the IDA stimulate economic activity for all businesses.

"There are a lot of things going on in Brookhaven, and the Town wants to become a partner with all of its community businesses and chambers of commerce, but we can't do it without feedback from you," Romaine said, suggesting that fewer permits, perhaps, might ease the burden of local business owners. "If you have a problem, let us know and we will help get you through the process."

"I'm extremely pleased with the turnout for this first-of-its-kind town wide event and I believe that many of the attendees had a profitable experience," said IDA Chairman Frederick C. Braun III.

In the last year, the IDA assisted 12 commercial projects including a new school-bus hub for Suffolk Transportation, expansion of distribution facilities for Intercounty Appliance and MS Packaging, the upgrading of a blighted Selden shopping center into a sports complex and construction of a planned Bristal Assisted Living Facility in Lake Grove.

About the Town of Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency ??Since 1971, the mission of the Brookhaven Industrial Development Agency has been to promote the economic welfare and prosperity of the Town of Brookhaven by assisting in the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, and equipping of commercial and industrial facilities. The IDA has issued millions of dollars in tax-exempt or taxable bonds and provided assistance through straight lease deals to encourage companies to either locate or expand in the Town of Brookhaven. This assistance has been extended to companies both large and small, and has resulted in the direct creation of thousands of jobs for Brookhaven residents. The IDA has provided assistance to a wide range of companies, including Tate's, Amneal Pharmaceuticals, Precision International, LI Precast, Woodcrest, Uncle Wally's, and FramERICA. For more information, visit BrookhavenIDA.org or call 631-451-6563.