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With orders mounting, Duralee to raise the roof

By NICK ANASTASI

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BAY SHORE – Privately-held Duralee Fabrics has applied for a \$3 million industrial revenue bond through the Town of Islip's Industrial Development Agency to help finance a vertical expansion of its headquarters.

Citing increasing demand for its fabric by the commercial and industrial sectors, Duralee plans to raise the ceiling by 10 feet to increase storage space capacity at its 67,000-square-foot Fifth Avenue facility.

Bill Mannix, executive director of Islip's Office of Economic Develop-

ment, said a bond resolution regarding the project will be put before the IDA on June 6.

"We have grown dramatically over the past year and anticipate further growth in the future," said Duralee Controller Bill Fuchs. "But we don't need more square feet, we need more cubic feet."

Fuchs declined to reveal his firm's sales or revenue numbers. However, he noted said the firm now operates a design center in Manhattan's fashion district and nine showrooms peppered across the country, with a 10th location currently being developed.

The fabric firm is working with the Melville-based roof raising specialist Space Technology to do the job, which will boost the overall roof height of the facility from 15 feet to 25 feet. Fuchs said the project is scheduled to begin in late June.

Established in 1952, Duralee, a warehousing and distribution firm that supplies raw materials, such as prints, solids, sheers and laces for the manufacture of items such as upholstery and curtains, started out on 23rd St. in Manhattan.

Then, four years later it migrated to the Island, initially to Nassau and then to Suffolk.

At present, the firm now features its own in-house design studio that is responsible for the creation of exclusive patterns, introducing about 25 new collections every six months, producing upwards of 1 million yards of fabric yearly.

Today, it currently supplies its wares to industrial and commercial clients, both in the United States and abroad.

Duralee has been in the current facility since the mid-1970s. The firm currently employs more than 150.

Fuchs said the assistance offered by Islip was key to Duralee's decision to stay in Bay Shore.



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