



HARRIS COLLINS / Staff

**Dell Keith (left)**, the executive director of the Wayne County Industrial Authority, welcomes Arnie, center, and Eric Rabinowitz to their new building.

## Tape It buys former DMI plant on 341

**By Drew Davis**  
STAFF WRITER

An adhesive-tape company from New York has bought the former Duro-Med Inc. (DMI) plant across U.S. 341 from Coastal Pines Technical College.

Tape It Inc.'s purchase of the building became official Monday, according to Dell Keith, the executive director of the Wayne County Industrial Development Authority.

"It's a great opportunity for us," Keith said Thursday. "It's the first time in several years we've had a new industry come to town. ... And it takes advantage of a vacant building that we've got."

"It feels good to be

wanted," Tape It co-owner Arnie Rabinowitz told *The Press-Sentinel* Friday morning.

"They're going to be employing around 40 people," Keith said. "... We'll probably have some kind of job fair in the near future."

The company was established in 1983 as an adhesive-tape distributor and rewinding company, he noted. Based in Bay Shore, New York, it has become one of the country's largest importers of high-quality adhesive-tape products, he said.

"It's a family-owned business," Keith added, explaining that Rabinowitz and his two sons, Eric and Scott, own the company.

The family plans to

remodel the interior of the building, Keith said, and the business should be in operation within the next six months.

Tape It produces all kinds of tape, he said, and the Rabinowitzes also operate a school-supply company.

"We're all excited," Arnie Rabinowitz said. "We have availability-of-space problems in Long Island and getting labor that wants to work. ... You're not far from the coast. The people really seem to care about each other here."

According to Keith, he has been working with the Rabinowitzes for the past six months on this project.

"They saw the building listed with Collins of Savannah," he

said, referring to one of the real-estate directories with which he has been marketing the building.

Tape It had been looking for a new site and had even found a building in South Carolina, Keith said, but the slab there was not thick enough to support the equipment.

The Rabinowitzes visited the former DMI building and even found a spot in the Sunset Boulevard industrial park where the company could expand in the future, Keith said.

"We were able to put them in touch with the state economic-development folks," Keith said, pointing out that the company qualifies for tax credits by creating jobs in the commu-

nity. The Industrial Authority also found temporary storage space for the company, Keith said.

"We just kind of bent over backwards to try to help him," Keith said of Arnie Rabinowitz. "He likes to call it that 'Southern hospitality.'"

"I think Dell and his people over there really tried to give us what we needed to get started," Rabinowitz said.

According to Keith, the Authority will finance \$75,000 in equipment for the company over four years.

If the promised jobs are created and maintained, he said, the debt will be waived at the end of that time.