

JM Eagle weathering the storm

by Amber Schlenker

The United States economy has been in a downward spiral for a number of years, and most business owners are feeling the pinch.

Two years ago the JM Eagle plant in Sunnyside was closed down...its future was uncertain.

But after months of planning and reconstructing, JM Eagle announced it was installing high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) production lines at the Sunnyside facility. Formerly, the Sunnyside plant was producing PVC pipe.

Yesterday (Thursday), JM Eagle unveiled to its local neighbors and regional dignitaries the new and improved plant.

JM Eagle is the leading manufacturer of PVC and HDPE plastic pipe nationally. With greater geographic reach than ever before, the company's resources provide capability for new products, new materials, new applications and new processes. The company also holds to the truth that much of the world's poverty could be lessened with access to clean drinking water, which non-rusting plastic piping helps provide.

The company's Sunnyside operation opened for production in 2007 and began producing PVC piping. Recently, the company made the switch to begin produc-

ing polyethylene piping. Sunnyside Plant Manager Stan Romig says the piping has different chemical properties, and has a thicker wall.

JMEagle CEO Walter Wang was present at Thursday's open house in Sunnyside. Other dignitaries included Congressman Doc Hastings and Sunnyside Interim City Manager Frank Sweet.

Wang says JM Eagle was built from the ground up, and like any good business model it began with a sturdy foundation.

"A good foundation can weather many storms," Wang said. "The last seven years we've had many storms, but it's truly a blessing to be able to weather these storms."

Wang says the way to move forward is to take one step at a time, "right foot, left foot, right foot."

When weathering a storm, the CEO says walking carefully and steady is what gets you through, there's no margin to look back.

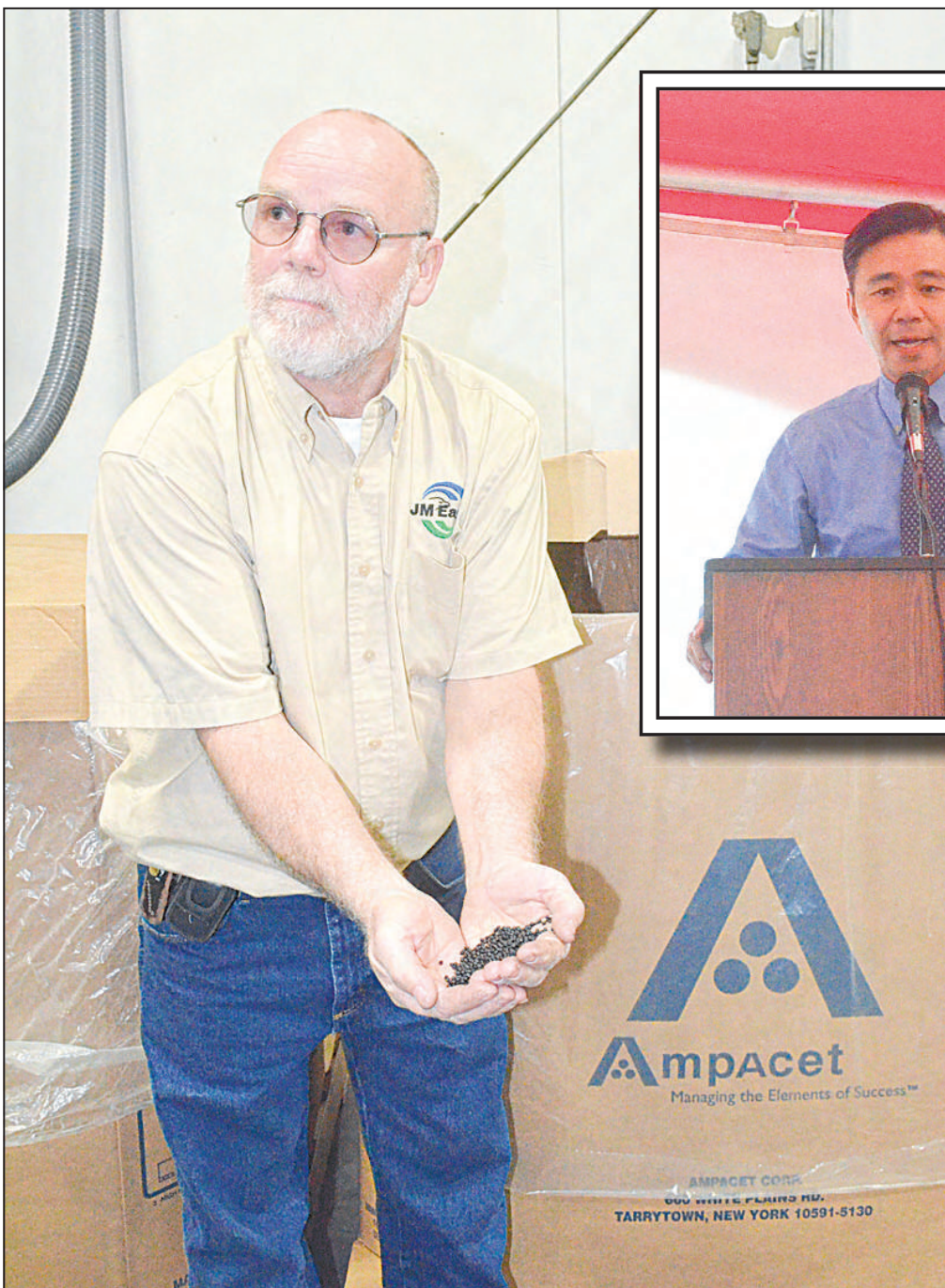
"Today is what matters," he said. "And it's a blessing and privilege to invest in Sunnyside again."

Wang says he's excited about the future of JM Eagle in Sunnyside, and says with the employees of the company coming to work with a smile on their faces, they are destined to succeed.

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JM Eagle's Michael LaFollette shows those invited to yesterday's open house the pipe cutter used to cut 36-inch pipes to length.



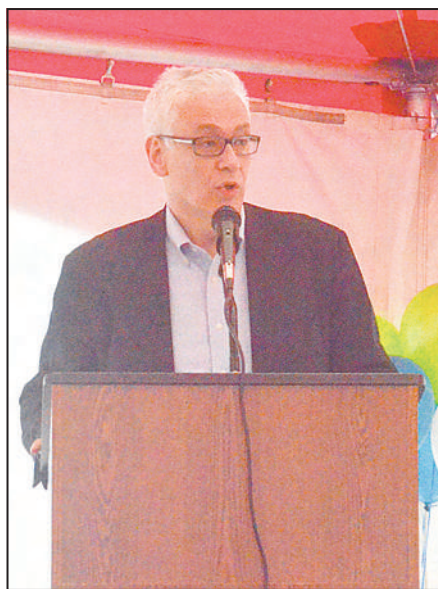
JM Eagle employee Rocky Febus shows attendees at yesterday's open house event the colorant used for pipes manufactured at the Sunnyside plant.



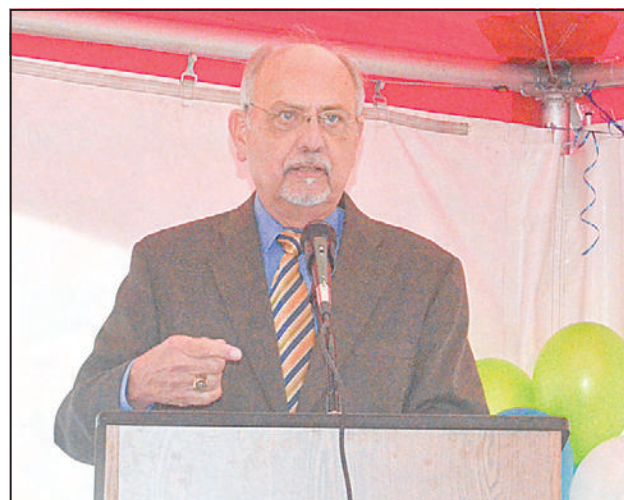
JM Eagle CEO and President Walter Wang gives an inspiring presentation at yesterday's open house event, talking about his company's focus on helping others.

photos by **Jennie McGhan**
Daily Sun News

Neal Gordon, vice president of JM Eagle's waterworks sales division, tells those at yesterday's open house that the Sunnyside plant's recent expansion is innovative and will help the nation's economy.



Several diameters of JM Eagle's new high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe were on display for those touring the Sunnyside plant yesterday.



U.S. Congressman Doc Hastings addresses those attending yesterday's open house at the Sunnyside JM Eagle plant.