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Ones to watch in commercial real estate

by Bernadette Starzee



Joseph Farkas

Owner

Metropolitan Realty Associates

An industry veteran of 25-plus years, Farkas recently acquired 711 Stewart Ave. in Garden City, a 335,000-square-foot office building that is 75 percent vacant, which he has renamed Garden City Square. He plans to redevelop it into a mixed-used building with assistance from the Hempstead Industrial Development Agency. Farkas began his real estate career working with Cushman & Wakefield, Koll Management Services and CB Richard Ellis before striking out on his own in 2001 with the purchase of Woodlands Office Park in Hauppauge, which he sold not long after for a profit. Today, he controls 1 million square feet of real estate on Long Island.