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The congressman held a campaign rally at the location just months ago when it was vacant.

By Michael Ryan

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In mid-April, U.S. Rep. Charles Bass, R-NH, spoke to voters in a vacant but promising space at Castle Commons on Range Road.

"There was nothing but concrete and construction lights hanging from the ceiling," Bass said of his spring rally.

Jump ahead to Oct. 18, when Bass stood in the same location, only the vacancy is now the main lobby of Windham's newest medical center.

New Hampshire's two largest private medical practice – Southern N.H. Internal Medicine Associates and Derry Medical Center – now occupy the location along with three other businesses.

Bass touted the prime location for the businesses during his appearance at an open house and ribbon-cutting event.

"Just to the east of Route 93, it's a great spot," he said. "The facilities and parking and access and so forth are good. This is a made-to-order success here and I think we have a lot of people to thank for making it possible.

All of the offices have been actively taking patients for about two weeks.

One of the practitioners in the Windham location is Dr. Theodore Brooks, who spoke to the crowded lobby on behalf of Derry Medical Center.

"Five months from start to finish, which is absolutely unbelievable," he said. "This does not happen by accident."

Brooks praised the work of Chris Nickerson, owners' representative for Castle Commons, in getting the medical center ready to go.

Speaking on behalf of SNHIMA was Dr. Edmund Schiavoni, who said that "patient-centered primary care" is really what drives the facility.