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FAYETTE COUNTY RECEIVES \$500,000 FOR NEW BUSINESS PARK

Uniontown, PA – The next phase of Fayette County’s economic growth will soon be under way, thanks to a \$500,000 state grant.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf announced Monday that the funding will be used to create a new business park on 200 acres neighboring Mount St. Macrina in North Union Township.

“The development of pad-ready sites will help bolster Fayette County to the top of the list when businesses are looking for a place to call home,” Wolf said. “I’m proud to support a project that will help Fayette County prepare for the business development and job creation projects of the future.”

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette was approved for the grant, which will be supported through the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program. RACP is administered by the state Office of the Budget for the acquisition and construction of regional economic, cultural, civic, recreational and historical improvement projects.

In 2004, Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites played a key role in securing a similar \$2 million state grant to create the Fayette County Business Park on state Route 40 in South Union Township. Since then, the county has seen nonstop business growth.

“Back then, it was a cornfield, and after over \$100 million in private investments, it is now home to over 1,000 employees at 45 businesses,” Vicites said. “With this grant as a foundation, we will begin the next great economic development opportunity in Fayette County.”

Vicites said the new business park will be primarily commercial - a zoning type with proven success in Fayette.

“The county has developed a niche for health care offices and clinics, and we want to continue that effort as we have in our current business park,” he said.



Vicites and his fellow commissioners Dave Lohr and Angela Zimmerlink will continue working with redevelopment authority Executive Director Andrew French to develop the new business park and improve the county's quality of life.

"Development equals jobs and private investment in Fayette County," Vicites said. "The first three phases of this business park have been a tremendous success and I believe this final phase will be an outstanding investment."

Vicites thanked Gov. Wolf; French; state Sen. Pat Stefano, R-Bullskin Township; and the property sellers, Mount St. Macrina's Sisters of Saint Basil, for their support of the project.

"Fayette County is continuing to make progress by working together," Vicites said.

Stefano said the business park is "a huge economic boost" for Fayette County, which will help attract new companies to the area.

"Job creation and economic development have been my top priority for this area, and I'm pleased that this project was chosen to receive funding," he said.

Stefano also applauded the county commissioners and redevelopment authority for their efforts locally.

"This is a clear sign of what can happen when state and local officials work together toward economic development," Stefano said.

State Rep. Ryan Warner, R-Perryopolis, called the grant award "the kind of announcement that we need in our area."

"It is a clear sign to the rest of our region that Fayette County is open for business," Warner said. "I'm proud of the team effort that went into securing this funding."

State Rep. Matthew Dowling, R-Uniontown, said the project will not only create jobs in North Union Township, but have "an incredible ripple effect" throughout the county.

"With a new base of employees, there will be a need for restaurants and markets for new residential developments to serve those employees," Dowling said. "The impact from a project like this will be felt for decades to come."

Commissioner Lohr said focusing on any economic development opportunities for those in Fayette and beyond is "always a positive direction." He said he's most looking forward to exploring different development options moving forward.

"Anytime you give choices, you can get growth, and we are looking to the future," Lohr said. "Excitement is contagious. When people see things happening, many times others jump on board."



Lohr said he hopes the new business park allows the health care, professional services and housing industries to grow, which will, in turn, keep people local.

“It’s a hopeful vision for the future,” he said. “Stay tuned. The county is moving in a positive direction and great things are to come.”

For more information, contact the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Fayette at 724-437-1547.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.fayettcountypa.info.

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