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NEW FAYETTE COUNTY WEBSITE GOES LIVE

Uniontown, PA – After more than 18 months of hard work, Fayette County has launched its new website, www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

Fayette County commissioners Dave Lohr, Chairman Vince Vicites and Angela Zimmerlink, along with Chief Clerk Amy Revak and staff members played key roles in bringing the project to fruition.

Commissioners' Administrative Specialist Debra Rhodes said the team worked diligently to ensure the website is user-friendly and allows for easier access to county government operations, agencies, activities and events.

"The website has been designed to reflect the best of Fayette County, from our historic past, to our beautiful scenery, to the bright future that the commissioners envision for the county," Rhodes said. "We have encouraged all of our county departments to make as much information as possible available online."

Additionally, the site offers easy access to property searches, permit and licensing information, downloadable government forms, emergency alerts, open records, online payments and employment listings.

"Website users are also encouraged to submit content - photos and the like - for the website," Rhodes said.

Commissioners hired web development company CivicPlus after Vicites networked with representatives during a National Association of Counties Conference in Washington, D.C., earlier this year.

Vicites said the new website will improve the collective efforts to positively promote Fayette County, as well as showcase its many amenities and strong government services.

"The new website is state-of-the-art and has impressive graphics," Vicites said. "The old website was 14 years old and needed completely redone. I especially like the great photos of Fayette County displayed throughout the website, and I'm pleased the project is complete.

"I believe its users will be pleased, as well."

Zimmerlink said the original county website, <u>www.co.fayette.pa.us</u>, was developed after she took office in 2004.

"By 2005, we were online and thereafter began accepting online payments, job applications, right-to-know requests, as well as provided public access to public meeting agendas and minutes, election

results and much more," Zimmerlink said. "This new launch will continue providing these services with improved graphics and navigation."

Lohr said the new website is important because Fayette County is constantly growing, "and our website must grow with us."

"For residents, it's about making communication with county government easier and more efficient," Lohr said. "For many people outside the county, the website is their first point of contact, and we need to be sure they have a positive experience from the outset."

FayetteCountyPA.org is faster, far more intuitive and offers significantly more content than its predecessor, Lohr added.

"Not only will users be able to do much of their county business via the website, but it will also be linked to outside agencies and activities throughout the county," he said. "I'm always excited when we're able to make access to county government easier for residents, but I'm especially excited about how we can use the website to promote Fayette County across Pennsylvania, throughout the United States and around the world."

Rhodes agreed a website "revamp was long overdue," and the end product "vastly expands the functionality" of the former site.

"I am so excited about this; I just can't say enough," she said. "It has a look and feel that conveys the warm and welcoming place that Fayette County is - a wonderful place to live, work and play."

To learn more about Fayette County, visit the new website at www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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