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Business park receives grant for infrastructure development

By Amy Karpinsky, Herald-Standard
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Funding for infrastructure at the Fayette County Business Park continues to flow in, with the recent announcement of an additional \$220,000 in grants for the park.

According to a press release issued by State Sen. Richard Kasunic, D-Dunbar, the Fayette County Redevelopment Authority will receive a \$220,000 grant for infrastructure development at the park, located along Route 40. Kasunic said the funds will help develop the park's water, sewer, gas and telecommunications capability to help attract new businesses and jobs.

Raymond C. Polaski, the executive director of the redevelopment authority, said the authority applied for the grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission. He said the money is earmarked to use for infrastructure work in a "yet to be designed" portion of the park off of Matthew Drive. The business park is located in close proximity to the Uniontown Mall and across Route 40 from the Holiday Inn.

Polaski said the authority has received approximately \$3.5 million in funding for infrastructure at the park, including \$2 million from the county. With the latest grant, the funding figure nearly reached \$3.75 million.

"This is very good news," Polaski said of the funding announcement. "We appreciate Senator Kasunic's effort and certainly can utilize the funds as we proceed in the future with infrastructure in the business park."

Three businesses, a Super 8 Motel, the Terry McMillen

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Engineering office and the CareerLink, are located in the business park. The authority has commitments from Fayette County Mental Health/Mental Retardation, Dr. Paul Hartley/Dr. Sridhar Patnam and Laurel Pediatrics for three more businesses. Polaski said MH/MR has already broken ground and paid for the property. The medical businesses are working on engineering and construction documents and will soon purchase the land, Polaski said.

Across Route 40, the authority has received a commitment from Superior Ford Inc. to purchase 31.76 acres to develop into as many as four automotive dealerships. Polaski said Superior Ford officials are finishing the design and financing and should be ready to break ground in the spring. He said that project is moving very rapidly.

In Kasunic's press release, he also announced a \$584,272 allocation to the redevelopment authority for weatherization services to help low-income and high-risk families stay warm this winter and keep their utility costs down. Polaski said the figure represents the annual allocation for the weatherization program.

Also, Kasunic announced a \$40,000 neighborhood assistance program tax credit for the Fayette County Community Action Agency Inc. to provide varying health and human services for more than 21,000 low-income people.

The state Department of Community and Economic Development administer the funds.

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