

# EconDev Details The Articles

## PLANET OASIS

Blue Horseshoe Ventures, a New Albany-based company headed by David Glimcher, has announced that it plans to open a 350-acre entertainment, recreation and restaurant complex in Berkshire Township. This project would be located adjacent to the Tanger Outlets Mall, right off Exit 131 from Interstate-71 at Routes 36/37. The entire project is estimated to cost about \$2 billion and the developer has projected construction would begin this December.

A project of this magnitude requires many parties, from both the public and private sectors, to work together to make it happen. It is the role of the Delaware County Economic Development Department to help connect these players and guide prospective developers through the development process.

On the public side: Zoning, Sewer and Roads:

- The Delaware County Regional Planning Commission reviews and makes recommendations to the Berkshire Township zoning board, which ultimately approves zoning and development plans.
- The Delaware County Regional Sewer District must plan and build the capacity to accommodate the project.
- Delaware County Engineer's office approves traffic patterns and develops/improves county roads needed for the area. Since this project is located next to federal and state routes, the Ohio Department of Transportation has the lead role in the development of those roads.

On the private side: Water, Natural Gas, Electric and Fiber. Each of the utility companies that provide these services will need to determine the needs and capacity for the project.

- DelCo Water Company, a private water company, serves unincorporated portions of Delaware County.
- Columbia Gas of Ohio is the natural-gas utility serving the area.
- AEP and Consolidated Cooperative are the electric and fiber utilities in the area.

The partners have been meeting with the developer in an effort to understand the project and collaboratively work together.

## OSU MEDICAL CENTER

Delaware County has been working with the City of Powell to put the infrastructure in place to accommodate the new Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center that will be constructed in the newly annexed section of Powell. The new medical campus will occupy 30 acres and be located in northeast corner of the Home Road and Sawmill Parkway intersection. This will be an ambulatory care center that would include primary care, imaging with onsite lab, urgent care, and walk-in healthcare.

OSU is estimating the project will create 500 new jobs with a total payroll of about \$50 million. This continues the growing trend of medical facilities locating in the Lewis Center and Powell area. In recent years, OhioHealth, Mount Carmel Health and Nationwide Children's all have invested in building new facilities here.

## DELAWARE ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTER AT OWU

This exciting new venture between Delaware County, the City of Delaware and Ohio Wesleyan University will provide rentable office space for entrepreneurs and valuable resources for new businesses that will come at a lower cost through membership. Delaware County and the City of Delaware have agreed to contribute \$50,000 each to the Entrepreneurial Center annually for the next five years. This collaborative agreement is unique as it includes two local governments and a private institution.

The office space will be housed on Ohio Wesleyan University's campus. The Stewart Annex building, located on South Sandusky Street, was an underutilized space that is being repurposed and renovated for the entrepreneurial center. The space will have a shared work area, a conference room set up for meetings, and individual office space. There will also be entrepreneurial educational opportunities for students. The school's other resources include the Woltemade Center, which specializes in Economics and Business studies, as well as media rooms and libraries.

This center can truly help the entrepreneurs in the Delaware area and can help them make their business ideas become reality. This not only aids these businesses but also the Delaware area when new jobs are created by these new businesses.