

County prepares to distribute gaming revenue

By Patty Yauger pyauger@heraldstandard.com | Posted: Sunday, September 20, 2015 2:00 am

Fayette County will begin allocating revenues generated by Lady Luck Casino at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort in Wharton Township.

Andrew French, Fayette County Redevelopment Authority executive director, said that a public informational session will be held Monday to review the application guidelines and answer any questions about the new program.

In March, the county commissioners directed the authority to establish a Local Share Account (LSA) for the generated revenue and institute criteria for its distribution.

French said that the authority worked with the state Department of Community and Economic Development to develop the guidelines.

Through the PA Race Horse Development and Gaming Act of 2004, the county receives 2 percent of the gross terminal revenues from the casino. The funding must be earmarked for economic development and community improvement projects.

Approximately \$1.1 million is available for distribution, said French.

Eligible applicants include the county, municipalities, county redevelopment authorities, Fay Penn Economic Development Council, county Industrial Development Authority and those registered as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

The funding must be used for economic development projects that promote local economic activity that create and/or retain jobs; community improvement projects that improve or create civic, cultural, or recreational activities or facilities; and public interest projects that improve the quality of life in the affected communities.

The applications will be reviewed by a steering committee that includes commissioners and representatives of the county planning, zoning and community development office, redevelopment authorities, Fay Penn, industrial development authority and the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette.

Each application will be reviewed with its approval based on economic impact, economic condition of the project area, level of private sector investment, local financial support and project readiness.

Also, strategic importance, financial need, project timeline, and reuse of Brownfields, previously used or underutilized sites, said French.


“The emphasis will be on furthering economic development in the county, revitalization of downtowns and other underutilized areas, and redevelopment of blighted properties,” he said. “Strong consideration will also be given to community improvement projects and public interest projects.”

French said that all municipalities have received a copy of the application. Completed documents must be filed with the redevelopment authority by Sept. 29.

After the review of the steering committee and approval by commissioners, the authority will submit a combined application to the DCED.

Any questions about the LSA or the application process should be directed to French by calling 724-437-1547, ext. 210 or by email at afrench@racfpa.org.

The informational meeting will be held a 3 p.m. at the Public Service Building located at 24 E. Main St., Uniontown, Pa.



Correction: The meeting will be held in Uniontown City Hall Council Chambers.