

Fayette County set to distribute gaming money revenues

By Patty Yauger pyauger@heraldstandard.com | Posted: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 5:00 pm

Municipalities, authorities and nonprofit organizations will again have the opportunity to seek a portion of gaming revenue received by Fayette County over the past year.

The Fayette County Local Share Account (LSA) Program was implemented last year to support local community and economic development projects and initiatives throughout the county.

The program is funded through gaming revenues received from Lady Luck Casino, at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort in Wharton Township and administered by the county redevelopment authority.

The fund was established under the Pennsylvania Race Horse and Gaming Act for the purpose of distributing two percent of the casino's revenues for economic and community projects.

Andrew French, authority executive director, estimated that \$600,000 is available for distribution.

Last year, about \$1.6 million was earmarked for 18 projects. The sum was garnered over a two-year period with various amounts distributed to organizations to undertake or continue a variety of projects.

The Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette Inc. was awarded \$110,000 for the start-up of a comprehensive employment training project while Fay-Penn Economic Development Council received \$100,000 to re-capitalize its small business loan program and an additional \$85,000 to redevelop the former VFW building in Uniontown.

Fayette County Airport Authority received \$120,000 to replace an antiquated hangar door on the fixed-base operations building and to make other repairs to the facility.

Masontown Matters received \$74,000 through the LSA program to aid in its plan to rehabilitate space to be used as an incubator for young entrepreneurs, and the county was awarded \$48,000 to add a walking trail to Dunlap Creek Park in Menallen Township and make other improvements at the county-owned facility.

French said that projects must fit into one of three categories, including economic development projects that promote local economic activity and create and/or retain jobs; community improvement projects that improve or create civic, cultural, or recreational

activities or facilities or public interest projects that improve the quality of life in the affected communities.

Funding requests that purpose to utilize LSA grants as a match for other public or private funding will be given extra considerations, French added.

The minimum grant amount per activity is \$10,000.

The redevelopment authority will conduct an informational session for potential applicants 10 a.m. June 28 at the Public Service Building located at 24 E. Main St., Uniontown.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. July 29. Applications are available on the authority website at www.racfpa.org or can be obtain by contacting French at 724-437-1547, ext. 210, or by email at afrench@racfpa.org.