

August 17, 2006 Groundbreaking for Greene Co. aquatic center

For Immediate Release

Aug. 17, 2006

Groundbreaking for Greene Co. aquatic center

Waynesburg, PA - Congressman John Murtha will be in Waynesburg on Thursday, August 17, 2006, to participate in the groundbreaking celebration for the new Greene County Aquatic Center. The current Central Greene Pool facility, located in Waynesburg, PA, was originally constructed in 1948. The water filtration system is obsolete and in need of replacement, as well as the structure of the pool itself. The County Commissioners have decided to approach this issue by moving beyond a standard facility upgrade to the development of a pool and community center model. This "community aquatic center" will provide a gathering place for area residents, as well as a regional destination spot during the summer months, improving the overall quality of life within the County, according to the Commissioners.

"It is rewarding to see these funds being put to good use in the development of the Greene County Community Aquatic Center, which for more than 50 years has been one of the region's most popular leisure-time destinations for swimming," said Murtha. "But the Aquatic Center is much more than a swimming pool. Its contribution to the quality of life in Greene County is invaluable in our efforts to attract visitors throughout the county and surrounding areas, while helping to build on the progress we've made in the region's economic revival."

With the current facility located on one of the prime tracts of developable land along State Route 21, the initial plan for the project was to move the pool to a new location and return the current land to the tax rolls by offering it up for sale. Feedback received from the public by the County Commissioners has kept the County from changing the physical location of the pool. With that in mind, the latest concept is to construct a facility that will draw visitors from throughout the County and the surrounding region, making this new pool and community center a revenue generating enterprise for the County.

In order to allow for a minimal impact to the seasonal nature of this facility, work on activities not affecting the site and pool construction will begin in August, 2006. Once the current facility is closed after Labor Day 2006, full site and pool construction will begin and run through spring 2007. The County's goal and directive to contractors is that the majority of work must be complete by Memorial Day 2007, in order for the new center to open in time to take full advantage of the summer 2007 season.

In addition to the Economic Development Initiative funding obtained by Congressman Murtha, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania released \$1.75 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program funds for this project earlier in the summer. An application has been submitted by the County to draw down on those funds. The County has also pledged to fund the balance of the project through its own bond issue. With contingencies, the project budget is estimated to be \$3.34 million.