



Constitutional Oaks Groundbreaking

The Lee County Industrial Development Authority hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at Constitutional Oaks Industrial Park on Tuesday morning. Those participating in the ceremony included, from left: IDA board member Barlow Newman, Supervisor Claude Ray, Supervisor Larry Mosley, Supervisor Mark Carter, Supervisor Carl Bailey, Rich Richardson (Virginia Economic Development Partnership), IDA Member Betty Grable, Delegate Terry Kilgore, IDA Chairman Quinton Littrell, IDA Director Tim Long, Craig Babrow (USDA), Ron Flanary (Lenowisco), Jonathan Belcher (Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority), and IDA member Jim Moore.

IDA Breaks Ground For Shell Building

The Lee County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) joined representatives from the Board of Supervisors, Lenowisco Planning District Commission, Virginia Economic Development Authority and the United States Department of Agriculture for a groundbreaking ceremony at Constitutional Oaks Industrial Park in Rose Hill on Tuesday (March 25) morning.

The ceremony begins a \$725,000 project to construct an expandable shell building on the site in hopes of attract-

ing potential businesses to the industrial park.

Along with IDA Chairman Quinton Littrell, Lee County District 1 Supervisor Carl Bailey was also in attendance with both offering their appreciation to everyone involved with the project.

"I believe we are finally making steps to get something started here (Constitutional Oaks Industrial Park)," said Bailey. "We've lost a lot of people to Kentucky and Tennessee because we don't have jobs to offer. I believe this Board of Su-

perisors is committed to doing whatever it takes to industrialize this county and give people who live here a place to live and work."

Bailey added that it is a great day for Rose Hill, Lee County and District 1 while Littrell also said it is a banner day for the industrial park, which is the largest industrial park in Southwest Virginia. "We hope to have this park full some day," he stated.

Lenowisco Planning District Commission Executive Director Ron Flanary also addressed

the crowd, explaining that the industrial park came about because of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' interest.

"This park has public water, sewer and now has broadband access so all the nuts and bolts are in place for a solid future," Flanary said. "But, we have to be patient. This is a great time to be constructing a shell building because our economy is not in 'expansion' mode, but when it recovers, Lee County is already prepared."

Flanary added that the park

See IDA Page Two

has a great chance of success, but reminded those in attendance that it took 37 years for Duffield to become what it is today.

"I can remember when the biggest decision in Duffield was who would be mowing the hay on the land and now they employ over 2,000," he continued, while saying IDA Director Tim Long had worked diligently in trying to upgrade the property and find potential prospects.

"The timing for this shell building couldn't be better. Seventy percent of prospects are looking for a site with an existing building," added Richard Richardson, Director of Communications and Promotion with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. "This shell structure will be a 'traffic builder' and will show well to prospects and the thousands of vehicles that drive by here every day."

Jonathan Belcher, Executive Director of the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority explained that it has been some time since a shell building has been constructed in this area and that all shell buildings are currently in use.

"Prospects want to look at an existing building. This site will be put into our database, where it is easier to market," Belcher stated. "Tim (Long) has worked very hard to promote this site and I think things are on the move in Lee County."

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Specialist Craig Babrow said it was an honor to be invited to Lee County and that he has been working with Long since 2001 on developing the industrial park site. "Everything is starting to become a reality, but this wouldn't be happening without Tim (Long) pushing so hard," he said.

District 1 Delegate and Virginia Tobacco Commission member Terry Kilgore also spoke to the crowd. He said the park is "one of the best places

to market", especially to mid-west prospects.

"I'm very happy that the Tobacco Commission has been able to make investments in projects such as this. We're beginning to see the success of our investments," stated Kilgore. "The Lee County Board of Supervisors and IDA always goes the extra mile to get things done and I look forward to helping create jobs for Southwest Virginia."