

## Fairchild, Corman receive Laurelton Center recommendation

The Laurelton Center Advisory Committee has presented Rep. Russ Fairchild (R-Snyder/Union) and Sen. Jake Corman (R-Centre) with the name of a proposed developer for the Laurelton Center.

The Laurelton Advisory Committee, which has met over the past several months to find a buyer for the former state mental retardation center in Union County, is recommending consideration of Mr. Gary Murphy, owner of Mountain Valley Inc., as the developer for the project. Mountain Valley Inc. operates as a for-profit corporation and will be paying local property taxes on the site.

"We would like to thank the advisory committee for all of their hard work over the past few months," Fairchild said, noting the committee consisted of all volunteers. "Our intent with this committee was to locate and identify a property tax-paying developer that would help find a new use for the Laurelton Center."

The Laurelton Advisory Committee met on Thurs., June 9th, to further review and discuss proposals submitted by potential developers. The Committee evaluated each developer and determined that Mr. Gary Murphy's proposal best fits the thirteen selection criteria. Mr. Murphy

will be paying the Commonwealth \$1,750,000 for the Laurelton Center.

Mr. Murphy's proposal for the reuse of Laurelton Center includes a Muscle Car museum, 4x4 Custom Shop, Amazon Racing, Custom Bike Shop, Detailing Center, Botanical Gardens, Dude Ranch, mountain trail horseback riding, indoor firearms range, outdoor archery range, summer camp for kids, picnic area, restaurants, bed & breakfast, Renaissance Fair, small business incubator, and information technology business. Mountain Valley, Inc. is a for-profit entity and will be paying local property taxes.

Fairchild and Corman will now proceed to put the land conveyance into legislation.

The Laurelton Advisory Committee has fulfilled its mission in evaluating proposals and recommending a developer for the reuse of the Laurelton Center. The Committee, consisting community volunteers, will not be scheduling any future meetings and will disband. If the Department of General Services cannot reach a signed sales agreement with the recommended developer, the Committee requests it be reinstated to provide the necessary community input as DGS negotiates with other developers.