

Business

The official word

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Plans for stadium, energetics center moving forward

Think the new Charles County Department of Economic Development is taking things slowly during its first few weeks? Think again.

The department was born four weeks ago today after the Board of Charles County Commissioners converted the Economic Development Commission into a full-fledged department within the county government. Today, the department is in the middle of moving to a new home on Centennial Street in La Plata closer to county government and next door to the Charles County Chamber of Commerce, which will make it easier for us all to communicate and work together.

The new Charles County Economic Development is moving full steam ahead on a number of projects, such as new marketing initiatives to attract companies to Charles County and a continued program to support the existing business community. Several ongoing projects are progressing nicely as well.

On July 12, the county commissioners signed a 20-year lease for the planned \$19 million baseball stadium/entertainment complex in Waldorf. This was a major milestone, one that has solidified the prospects for the stadium/entertainment complex and will provide an unparalleled amenity for the community — an amenity that makes Charles County a more attractive and vibrant place to raise our families, while spurring additional economic activity and providing a new source of employment in the county.

Last week, the commissioners, other officials and members of the business community traveled to Lancaster, Pa., to see a similar minor league ballpark. It was an impressive facility, and the trip helped to reinforce the importance of providing community forums that can support good wholesome, affordable entertainment for families.