

F&M Trust closes with HCBI on parcel
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The Riverview Business Center has a new business that will be setting up on one of its prime lot spaces. F&M Trust, a bank headquartered in Chambersburg, officially closed on LOT #1 of the business center with Huntingdon County Business and Industry Thursday afternoon. The parcel is located along the right side of the main entrance off Route 522 below Mount Union.

F&M Trust CEO William Snell Jr. presented HCBI president Jinny Cooper with a check for \$160,000 at the closing. For Cooper, it was the end of a process that started while she was serving as the chair of HCBI's executive director Nick Felice was also on hand for the closing. Felice said he wanted to welcome the bank to the business center and also noted businesses undergoing expansion in the present economy is an achievement.

"It's encouraging to see that they're willing to make an expansion like this (given the present economic state)," Felice said.

Snell told *The Daily News* that initial plans call for the construction of a drive-through ATM on the lot, but that the bank plans to open a branch office at that location within three years time. Snell expressed hope that construction of the ATM would begin soon and that it would be open for operation between the second and third quarters of this calendar year.

F&M Trust is not new to Huntingdon County. The bank has one of its 25 community banking centers located in Orbisonia and has a representative on the HCBI Board of Directors. F&M also has banking offices located in Fulton, Cumberland and Franklin counties.

"F&M Trust acquired the Orbisonia branch office at the same time it acquired Fulton Bankshares Corp. and its subsidiary, Fulton County National Bank," Snell explained. "Our initial plans were to expand the Orbisonia office (and see what happened from there)."

As customers started banking with F&M, it was noted that a lot of customers were coming from an area between Mount Union and Orbisonia, Snell said.

The process of starting to lay the plans for an expansion to the Riverview Business Center began in 2007, Snell said.

"When you try to advertise on a branch (of your bank) and it's in the southern part of the county, that's not very cost-effective," Snell said. "We're very impressed with what we saw in Riverview. In the long term, we think we can grow."

F&M Trust makes acquisitions like the lot at Riverview because it banks on future growth, Snell said.

"as a community bank, we're doing pretty well in a tough economy," Snell said.

F&M Trust's expansion into the Riverview Business Center is helping lay the infrastructure at the center when economic times get better, said Amy Sheaffer, HCBI's director of business development. Sheaffer said that there are seven lots that are pad-ready at the center, adding that there are 150 acres of the

business center property that have not yet been developed. HCBI is in the process of conducting an engineering study on those 150 undeveloped acres, Sheaffer said.

Cooper noted that F&M Trust is a “strong financial institution with a long history of service in central Pennsylvania.

“It’s very nice to see them move (to a slightly more northern) location in the county,” Cooper said
“We’re delighted that we have some positive news to share with the community.”