

Holiday Inn Express Looks to Build



N.B. Patel, owner of Van Wert's Holiday Inn Express on N. Washington St., will build a new hotel that will open as early as July 2009. Construction of this new hotel will begin with a new road, which will begin this July. This road will lead to the future site of the new building, which will stand behind the current hotel.

The current Holiday Inn Express has seen increased business due to the summer and also local events. Concerts, parades, and also the Performing Arts Center has created more business, but has also brought in demands for change.

Larry Lee, Director of V. W. County Convention and Visitors Bureau, has also noticed the demand for a new hotel. "I believe it is absolutely necessary to have another hotel in the area." But, the increased amounts of people have little to choose from when it comes to lodging. "Many tourist, and also artists that perform in our area do not stay within the city. They usually bus to Lima or Ft. Wayne to stay." Lee believes that the new hotel will keep more people within our area, which will greatly affect our local economy.

Paul Hoverman, Executive Director of the P.A.C., has run into problems securing rooms for performing artists. “With so few choices for rooms, current hotels can easily be filled which causes us to book artists elsewhere and lose tax dollars.” Mr. Hoverman has also said that tickets have been sold as far as Delaware for upcoming events. This could lead to problems with lodging in the future.

This new hotel will contain an expanded breakfast bar, larger rooms, and also executive suites. These improvements will meet and exceed the demands of his customers. “The executive suites will be good for business people and families. These rooms will have separate living and sleeping areas.”

With the promise of a new hotel, Lee also hopes that it will stimulate growth in other areas of our economy. “The addition of a new hotel increases the chance that new businesses would enter the area,” said Lee.

The current Holiday Inn Express will become a Comfort Inn when the doors open next July. Although the name will change, current management will run both buildings. Mr. Patel currently employs 13 people, but expects to see an increase in that number. “About 15 more jobs will be created with the new hotel,” said Patel.