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City to offer help with downtown improvements

KATE LIEBERS
Staff Writer

Delaware officials announced Wednesday they will begin offering a federally funded program to help property owners improve the appearance — and economy — of the downtown area.

The Facade Improvement Program allows the city to offer a

50-percent matching grant of up to \$20,000 to local businesses or building owners who undertake eligible improvements to their building's storefront facades.

The goal is to stimulate private investment in high-quality building improvements that contribute to the overall strength of downtown, Delaware City Planning and Community

Development Director Dave Efland said.

"Business owners need help in this economy. We heard that they'd like a program like this if it was possible," Efland said.

The program is to be funded through Revolving Loan Funds (RLF), a program backed by the state and designed to assist local businesses. The city has a total of \$150,000 in

the fund.

Efland said the program shows that the city is cognizant of the economy, while still requiring the business owners to make an investment.

"The building owner or business owner would have to have some financial interest as well," Efland said.

All commercially operated buildings, including

mixed-use and residential structures, within the perimeters of the core downtown area are eligible.

Additionally, only improvements to the physical infrastructure that comply with the Historic Preservation Commission's guidelines are acceptable.

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GAZETTE | HALLEY MILLER



Delaware council, BV school candidates share views

ANDREW TOBIAS
Staff Writer

While some difference of opinion emerged, a public forum for Delaware city council candidates this week was largely an amiable affair.

Squaring off were councilwoman Lisa Keller and challenger Jim Roberts for the city's Second Ward seat, councilman Joe DiGenova and challenger Robert Hoffman for the city's Third Ward seat, and councilman Andrew Brush and challenger Larry Garrett for the Fourth Ward. First Ward Councilman Chris Jones is

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Making his point



GAZETTE | MELISSA MACKEY

Third from left, Powell City Council incumbent Richard Cline gives his opening statement Thursday night at the Delaware County League of Women Voters candidates' forum for those races in the southern portion of Delaware County. Cline is flanked by council candidates Jon Bennehoof, second from left, and Trent Hartranft, third from left. LWV candidates forum moderator Bill McCartney sits in the background. See Saturday's Gazette for the full story.

Powell's solar panel project gets nod

MELISSA MACKEY
Staff Writer

After structural engineering issues nixed a solar panel project on the Powell Municipal Building, city officials now have the OK on their alternative project: a solar panel carport, picnic shelter or one of each.

Powell City Manager Steve Lutz announced this week that the federal government gave the nod for the altered project.

The project now under council consideration



COURTESY | CITY OF POWELL

An artist's rendering of the proposed solar panel carport planned for Powell's municipal building. The project is being funded by a federal energy grant.

involves constructing either two carports or one carport and a picnic-style shelter on top of each. The carport would be large enough to keep the Powell police house with solar panels on

and snow, and a shelter house would provide shade in the park area adjacent to the municipal building near the splash pad.

The architect is in the final design phase and a final draft rendering of the proposed projects should be ready at a future operations committee meeting for review, city officials said.

The project is being funded by an \$821,861 federal energy efficiency grant through the Ohio

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BV school board: 'misconceptions' linger over district finances

ANDREW TOBIAS
Staff Writer

Buckeye Valley school board members used their final public meeting before Election Day as an occasion to address any lingering concerns over a proposed 0.5 percent income tax increase.

That ranged from addressing what board member Rod Boester

said is misinformation speculating throughout the school district via the media and elsewhere, to arranging a possible walk-through of Buckeye Valley High School so community members can see how renovations there are shaping up before they head to the ballot box on Nov. 8.

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WEATHER



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ONLINE POLL at delgazette.com

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For Against Undecided

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS: How will you vote on the Delaware City Schools levy?



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