

OBSERVER-REPORTER – January 4, 2006

Bob Niedbala, Staff writer

WAYNESBURG -- A contractor has been working to construct the first building at EverGreene Technology Park for several months, but only Tuesday did the building actually begin to look like a building.



The contractor on the project, Burchick Construction Co., on Tuesday began lifting into place concrete-form walls on a 40,000-square-foot building that will house the Franklin Township technology park's first tenant.

The building is being constructed using a method referred to as "tilt-up construction," said Don Chappel, executive director of Greene County Industrial Development Authority.

The contractor had first constructed the building's concrete foundation and its slab floor. It then poured the concrete exterior walls in forms set on top of the slab.

Tuesday (January 3, 2006) the building began coming together when a crane was used to lift the walls into place. "The building going up is a definite plus," Chappel said, speaking about development of the technology park. "Having a building up will lend more credibility to the park," he said.

The park is being developed by the authority in conjunction with Greene County Industrial Development Corp., which owns the 248-acre park site. Horizon Properties, a company that helped develop Southpointe in Washington County, also was hired as the park developer and is constructing the first building.

Michael Swisher, a partner in Horizon Properties, said the building is expected to be completed in April. The company also is now working on a "conceptual" plan for a second office building and is seeking potential tenants for that building, he said.

Swisher said the company is happy with progress at the park and the efforts of the authority as well as local political leaders who have supported the project.

The anchor tenant for the first building will be RJ Lee Group Inc., which plans to develop a data storage center there. Westmoreland County Community College also is expected to lease space in the building.

Contractors have been working at the park since May. The first phase of the project includes about 25 acres and several building sites. Bids are now being solicited for excavation work for the second phase of the park.

Bids for phase two development, which involves moving about 450,000 cubic yards of earth, are scheduled to be opened January 20.