

Hampton Inn breaks ground

- By Steven Collins Senior Reporter
- Jul 17, 2019



Shawn Pen, the developer on the Hampton Inn project, spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony Wednesday afternoon. The hotel is expected to be complete by Oct. 1, 2020 ahead of the Pumpkin Show.

NANCY RADCLIFF

CIRCLEVILLE — Ground was broken Wednesday on a new Hampton Inn Hotel in Circleville after only six months of negotiations.

Several local leaders and members of the development team spoke at a small ceremony at the site, located at 1520 S. Court St. and west of the former Thompson RCA property.

"This has been necessary for the City of Circleville for many years," Mayor Don McIlroy said.

McIlroy said Shawn Pan, the developer, and the rest of the development team and ownership group have gotten involved in the community by attending events before they signed the deal to come, including visiting the Pickaway County Chamber Dinner and the Heritage Hall Ball prior to the start of the county fair.

"They didn't have to be there but they care about this community," McIlroy said. "About a month and a half ago, we had the tornadoes that came through here and I got an email

from Mr. Pan who said to let them know what they could do for people in this community. That says a lot about these folks that are coming here and doing business with us.”

McIlroy said it was probably the easiest development deal the city has ever had.

Ryan Scribner, economic development director for Pickaway Progress Partnership (P3), the county’s economic development entity, said it was a special day for the city.

“It’s been a different conversation with Shawn and his team,” Scribner said. “There is sincere interest in our community. The pride in their product is special. That first afternoon when we drove them around they were showing off their Trip Advisor ratings and I think that bodes well for Circleville.”

Pan said they’ve been welcomed with open arms and have received great hospitality from the community.

“It’s overwhelming and we really appreciate it,” he said.

Pan said he had fond memories of Circleville having visited the Pumpkin Show in 1983.

“We’re glad to be here in town and we’re very excited to get the project started,” he said. “All the pressure is now on our builder. Our target date to open is Oct. 1 2020, three weeks before Pumpkin Show.”

Scribner said they know from the study they completed that there was a need for the project.

“We have what we call leakage, which is people coming here for events and opportunities but they’re not staying overnight,” he said. “When you spend the night somewhere you eat out and shop. This is important for Main Street development, retail development and projects for the new County Ag and Event Center. There’s a multiplier effect that will have a ripple effect in the community in a big way.”

Scribner also talked about the site, which required some remediation and cleanup before it was ready for the project, something that was done years ago.

“There were issues with the soil and just a little over a year ago it wasn’t accessible and the utilities weren’t here,” he said. “It’s been a great team effort between the state of Ohio, Circleville and P3 to get this site ready.”

Tim Wilson, executive director for the Pickaway County Visitors Bureau, said it was a huge day for the county and gave some facts and figures.

“Our occupancy rate is over 80 percent which might not mean a lot to folks but we’re sending a lot of folks away and we’re not able to capture that revenue,” he said. “The average revenue of someone who comes to Circleville is \$80 and the average revenue for someone that stays overnight is over \$300.”

Tyler Reed, a representative for U.S. Rep. Steve Stivers, (R-15th Ohio) presented the developers with a proclamation from the congressman for the event.