

County signs lease to keep recycling center site

WAYNESBURG — Greene County's recycling center will stay put for at least the next 10 years, after commissioners approved a long-term lease with United Mine Workers of America, which owns the land on which the center sits.

Greene Arc has operated the county's recycling center at its headquarters in Ruff Creek for many years. However, in 2008, the organization sold the 65-acre site to United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), which operates a career center at the property to train coal miners.

UMWA will continue to share the site with the recycling center, and the county will pay for the use of the land. The county already owns the building as well as all the recycling equipment. The rent will start at \$2,000 a month for the first year and gradually increase to \$4,000 a month in the final three years of the contract.

"We looked into moving the center, but we found out it was going to cost way too much money to do that," said Commissioner Pam Snyder.

Since selling the land to UMWA, Greene Arc continued to use the building and operate the recycling center rent-free while the search for a new location continued.

The county received a \$100,000 state grant to assist in finding a new site, but the county will instead use that money to cover the rent on the old building. The grant should pay for about 39 months of the rent.

Originally, the county looked into relocating the recycling center in Waynesburg Borough. About six years ago, Greene Arc purchased property on South Washington Street that used to be the site of the Grocer C. Hughes store. The agency had plans to build a vocational training center and headquarters at the site, and it received state funding to partially cover the cost of construction.

The county, however, determined the site wasn't suitable for the recycling center and eventually scrapped plans to relocate it at all.

The monthly rent cost will be \$2,000 for the first year; \$2,500 for the second year; \$3,000 in years three and four; \$3,500 for years five, six and seven; and \$4,000 for the final three years.