

## **Walmart files tax appeal**

WAYNESBURG — Walmart filed a petition Monday with Greene County Court seeking to appeal a county board assessment appeals' decision regarding the assessed value of its Murtha Drive store.

The company seeks to appeal a decision issued last month denying the company any reduction in the property's assessed value for 2012. According to information included with the petition, the property is valued at \$9,862,400. Of that, \$2,574,420 is the assessed land value and \$7,287,980 is the assessed building value.

The company had asked the board to reduce the total assessed value to about \$7.8 million. Walmart claims in its court petition that the board's decision is in error and is an abuse of discretion.

Among other things, Walmart claims the assessment is substantially higher than those of comparable properties and is based on an erroneous determination of fair market value. It also claims the decision violates the state's uniformity clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the U. S. Constitution.

Judge William Nalitz has scheduled a status conference on the company's petition for 3 p.m. December 21.

The 143,000-square-foot store is built on 46.3 acres of land the company purchased at Waynesburg Crossing in 2007. The store opened in March 2009 and is the only business now located at the retail development.