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## More Hotel Space Coming to Ohio Valley Mall

June 8, 2015

By CASEY JUNKINS Staff Writer , The Intelligencer / Wheeling News-Register

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ST. CLAIRSVILLE - If more workers come to Belmont County to build a planned \$5.7 billion ethane cracker, they will need somewhere to stay - and 203 new hotel rooms set to open near the Ohio Valley Mall by next year should help accommodate the potential employee influx.

Joe Bell, a spokesman for the Cafaro Co., which owns the mall, said a 100-room Candlewood Suites is set to open in the location once home to the Rax restaurant by fall. According to Candlewood's website, the facility will offer guests a gym and free wireless Internet access. It will also permit guests to bring dogs and cats with them.

"Certainly, much of the hotel boom is related to the oil and gas activity," Bell said. "The folks who do this believe there is a need for more hotel space. These projects address part of that need."

## Article Photos



Photo by Joselyn King

In April, Belmont County commissioners and Ohio Gov. John Kasich said Thailand-based PTT Global Chemical and Tokyo's Marubeni Corp. will decide before the end of 2016 whether they will turn the R.E. Burger site and some surrounding property in the Dilles Bottom area into a \$5.7 billion ethane cracker. Officials maintain such a project will create thousands of temporary construction jobs, as well as hundreds of full-time jobs.

Bell said in 2016, a Residence Inn by Marriott, featuring 103 suites, should open on the west side of the mall in an area previously void of development.

Construction of the project is now clearly visible to those driving along Interstate 70.

Bell also said the Mall Road connector project would be in the vicinity of the new Residence Inn. He said the new conduit will offer shoppers



a mode of convenience.

"It will allow people to move back and forth more easily to let them experience all the shopping available in the St. Clairsville area," he  $\,$ 

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