

## Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland

### Governor Wolf Announces Loan Approvals Supporting Two Westmoreland County Businesses

**Harrisburg, PA** – Governor Tom Wolf announced new low-interest loan approvals through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) program for two business projects in Westmoreland County that will help create and retain approximately 125 jobs statewide. The loan funding will assist businesses with the costs of expanding into larger, more capable facilities that will help them meet customer demand.

**Astley Precision Machine Company, Inc.**, a producer of precision machined components for the medical, scientific, and defense industries, was approved for a \$1,046,000, 10-year loan with 20-year amortization at a 2.5 percent rate with a 5-year reset through Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland (EGC).

EGC Business Development Officer Greg Daigle reports that the project includes the acquisition and renovation of a 51,000-square-foot building in Irwin. Astley Precision Machine Company has outgrown its current 17,000-square-foot building located two miles away from the new site, and requires a larger facility to meet the increasing demands of customers. Funding will be used for the building acquisition and site renovations. The company will also lease 15,000 square feet of the site to Emsco Distributors Co., a swimming pool and accessories manufacturer. The project is expected to retain 34 full-time jobs and create 11 new, full-time jobs within three years.

**Zilka & Company, LLC**, a family-owned bakery supplier, was approved for a \$2 million, 10-year loan with 20-year amortization at a 2.75 percent rate with a 5-year reset through Economic Growth Connection of Westmoreland.

Daigle reported the funding will be used for the construction of a 62,000-square-foot facility located in Hempfield Township. As the company's customer base has expanded to include manufacturing facilities and supermarkets, the new facility will enable the company to better

meet customer demand. It will house administration, processing, and distribution divisions of the company as well as 20,000 square feet of freezer space, and will offer easy access to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, which is a major transportation route for the company. The project is expected to create 12 new jobs and retain 68 jobs in the next three years.

EGC President Jim Smith added, “We continue to see strong loan activity within Westmoreland County, and with the low-interest rate being offered through the PIDA program EGC can offer significant savings to businesses.”

Contact: Greg Daigle - (724) 830-3604 - [gdaigle@egcw.org](mailto:gdaigle@egcw.org)

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