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## West Chester preparing for events facility

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**WEST CHESTER TWP.** - A formal groundbreaking is planned in late February for the township's largest private meeting facility.

The Savannah Center at Chappell Crossing is planned as a \$10 million, 48,000-square-foot building overlooking a man-made 4-acre lake on Chappell Crossing off Union Centre Boulevard.

The facility, which will handle gatherings of up to 1,200 people, is the brainchild of Charlie Chappell, one of the developers behind the growth of the Union Centre area who first outlined the center two years ago. He is one of 10 private investors in the project slated to open in November.

"We're already starting to book events for 2008," said Pam Shrout, general manager. A series of charity fund-raisers is planned late this year to show off the new facility, which will have its own chef.

"We're going for a Southern coastal feeling," said Shrout, former general manager of the Streets of West Chester. "We want the atmosphere of a country club, not that of a convention center."

"There aren't many places in the area that can hold 700-800 people," she said. "You have to go to the Sharonville (Convention Center) or downtown."

Sitting on 12 acres, the building will have a 1 1/2-story glass solarium and a gazebo overlooking the lake. The lawn area will be capable of holding 300 people, she said.

The center expects to draw meetings from businesses and events as far away as Dayton, Ohio, and Southeast Indiana. Schumacher Dugan Construction Inc. is the builder.

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