

# **NEWS** *from Middletown, Pa.*

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## **Developer announces plans for hotel**

A brand name hotel with more than 100 rooms is being proposed for a site just off Middletown's soon-to-be renovated downtown.

David L. Stubbs, Managing Director of United Realty and Infrastructure Group LLC (urigroup), made the announcement during Monday night's meeting of Middletown's Borough Council.

The proposed site of the hotel would be at the southwest corner of West Emaus and Catherine streets, across the street from Borough Hall, one block from the South Union Street downtown area. PennDOT has announced plans to extend Emaus Street to meet West Main Street as part of plans for a new Middletown Amtrak station.

Along with the Emaus Street extension, plans also call for a pedestrian bridge to connect the train station, and the Emaus Street corridor, to the Penn State Harrisburg campus. The easy access to the campus, the train station and Harrisburg International Airport that the Emaus Street extension will create was a prime factor in the selection of the proposed hotel site.

Stubbs also cited the planned revitalization of the downtown, and the strong commitment to economic and community development by the Borough's leadership as factors in choosing the Middletown site.

Urigroup's plans call for retail space on the first floor, with the hotel above it. The hotel will be a national brand, but Stubbs said it was too early to identify a specific name.

In addition to the hotel project, Stubbs said his firm is also interesting in working with Dewberry, the planners behind the downtown streetscape project which will get underway next month, to identify other development projects in the Borough that might fit Dewberry's master plans.

The \$4.3 million downtown project is broken into two phases. The first phase, which is about to start, involves replacing sewer mains and other infrastructure in the downtown area. That phase is expected to be completed by late fall of this year. The second phase, which involves comprehensive streetscape improvements, is scheduled to get underway in early 2015.