

BLALOCK MAKES APPARENT LOW BID FOR PIGEON FALLS LANE

Road will be first project to start in new Tourism Development Zone

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (October 10, 2006) – Charles Blalock & Sons, Inc., of Sevierville is the apparent low bidder to build Pigeon Falls Lane, the first construction project to begin in the city's newly designated Tourism Development Zone (TDZ).

The Blalock bid is \$3.13 million, according to John Jagger, director of community development for Pigeon Forge.

Jagger said the bid is being evaluated and that he expects a recommendation for the contract to be on the agenda for the Oct. 23 meeting of the Pigeon Forge City Commission.

Pigeon Falls Lane will start at Teaster Lane just south of the Belz Factory Outlet World Annex. It will be almost a half-mile long and is designed to connect with a proposed extension of Jake Thomas Road.

Construction will take between nine and 12 months after the contract is awarded, according to Jagger.

Pigeon Falls Lane and the Jake Thomas Road extension are part of the infrastructure development in the TDZ, which was approved by the state in May.

The TDZ is a defined area in which the city can make specified public improvements with special financing. Some of the sales tax generated by businesses that open in the TDZ will be earmarked to retire the bonds that finance the public improvements.

In addition to basic components such as roads and utilities, the City of Pigeon Forge is working toward a parking facility, a hub for the Fun Time Trolley system and other developments.

Early private-sector investments that are evolving in the TDZ include Pigeon Falls Village, a mixed-used development with retail, lodging, dining and entertainment, and Belle Island Village, another multi-faceted development.

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