

LOCAL

DHL to open distribution center in Violet Township



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VIOLET TOWNSHIP – DHL Express plans to open an estimated 750,000-square-foot distribution center at the corner of Basil-Western Road and Amanda Northern Road with construction to start by year's end.

"This is one of the largest projects ever in the county, " Fairfield County Economic Development Director Rick Szabrak said. "It just shows how desirable Fairfield County and central Ohio are for many industries. But especially with the logistics industry. We're in a great location and able to service the majority of the country's population within a day's drive from here."

The center is in the general area around Meijer and Kingy's Pizza Pub and U.S. 33 near the Diley Road interchange.

"It's a good opportunity to really open up a new commercial-industrial corridor up there on Basil-Western," Szabrak said. "It's right off of (U.S.) 33. It's going to be one of the biggest buildings in Fairfield County."

He said the new distribution center will provide 200 jobs and sit on 78 acres. The area is just a vacant parcel now.

"It's a great opportunity to provide work for a lot of folks that are leaving the county to work in logistics," Szabrak said. "Basically, thousands of people leave Fairfield County every day to go work either at Rickenbacker (International Airport) or up in Etna Township. One of our goals is to provide new jobs closer to home for people in Fairfield County, and this is a good opportunity to do that."

Szabrak said the goal is to open the distribution center within three years. He said the project is estimated to cost around \$50 million.