

Bethel's Foxfield & Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack Receive Bates Awards



2007 Bates Awards Winners—
Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack (left) and Foxfield in Bethel Township (right). Photos courtesy of Harrah's and The McKee Group.

The Delaware County Planning Commission's 2007 William H. Bates Memorial Awards for outstanding land development were given to Foxfield, an active adult community in Bethel Township, and Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack.

Planning Commission Chairman Thomas J. O'Brien and John E. Pickett, AICP, Director of the Planning Department, presented the Bates Awards at the Commission's monthly meeting in January.

The Commission recognized The McKee Group for meeting the objective of the Bates Award by "employing innovative techniques and practices...in accordance with modern and evolving principles of site planning and development." Foxfield is both an affordable mix of dwelling types and an attractive mix of architectural styles that add interest to the landscape. The 173-acre development takes into account the topography of the site ringed by woodlands and sensitively blends the active adult community into its surroundings in Bethel. Foxfield offers its over-55 residents a host of amenities, from a well thought out walkway system of sidewalks and trails to a handsome clubhouse.

Accepting the Bates Award plaques were Jim Webb, Vice President of New Homes, Kevin McLaughlin, Senior Vice President – Business Development and General Counsel, and Jennifer McKee, Director of Public Relations for The McKee Group; Bob Pluciemik, Chester Valley Engineers; and Matt Houtman, Bethel Township Engineer.

The year 2008 started off brightly for The McKee Group. The evening before the Bates Awards presentation, the developer was named Builder of the Year by the Homebuilders' Association of Chester and Delaware Counties.

Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack was selected because it fulfills the purpose of the Bates Awards Program. "In an era of ...diminishing open space, recreation, and nonrenewable resources, the Commission encourages a more efficient use of land and public services for the residents of Delaware County." The Casino turned an eyesore, an abandoned industrial property in Chester City, into an attractive entertainment center with an uninterrupted view of the Delaware River waterfront. The Casino is also a productive use of land and a revenue source for the County and the City. The design and toned-

down exterior of the structure integrate the Casino into its setting in an industrial neighborhood.

Receiving the plaque for Harrah's were Vince Donlevie, Senior Vice President/General Manager, Jason Birney, Advertising/Public Relations Manager, and Mike Chowansky, Banquet/Catering Sales Manager. For their role in the development, plaques were given to Chester City Mayor Wendell N. Butler, Jr.; Patrick McNulty of the Flynn Company; Jeff Wynkoop of Sosh Architects; and Catania Engineering Associates, Inc., represented by Lisa Catania, Alex Rodriguez, and Lou Brown.

The Awards Program honors the late William H. Bates, who served on the Planning Commission for 17 years and was for many years its chairman. Established in 1980, the Awards Program was renamed for Bates in 1982.

Throughout the year, municipalities are encouraged to evaluate land planning projects in their communities that merit consideration for a Bates Award. Take a look at the Plan & Ordinance pages on our website (www.co.delaware.pa.us/planning) for details on the Program and the nomination process. For further info, please contact James C. Long at 610-891-5225.