

THE DAILY NEWS

thedailynewsinline.com

Today Sunday
74°/55° 77°/57°

Friday/Saturday/Sunday
July 3-5, 2009

Batavia, N.Y.

Serving Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans Counties

\$1.2

GCEDC OKS \$700,000 for Tech Park

By Paul Mirozek
pmirozek@batavianews.com

The Genesee Economic Development Center approved another \$700,000 in spending Thursday for the Upstate New York Medical & Technology Park on Hawley Drive in the town of Batavia.

The \$7.2 million project broke ground last week but a delay in finalizing the financing limited the amount of work that could be done.

The \$700,000 will be used to put in gravel, install water and sewer lines and partially pay for an order of steel for construction of a 43,000-square-foot building, GCEDC Chief Executive Officer Steve Hyde said.

Last month the EDC agreed to spend \$250,000 to allow contractors to do preparatory work on the 32.5-acre site across the street from Genesee Community College.

The money allocated Thursday was

See GCEDC — page A-2

— From page A-1 Development program and a loan from Five Star Bank.

"This is not a trivial issue. We continue to lose daylight as every day goes by," he said.

Henry said the GCEDC needs to sign its agreement with the general contractor, D.A. Tufts of Batavia, so Tufts can in turn hire subcontractors it needs for the job.

Hyde said the \$700,000 in funding will allow him to ink the construction contract next week. The CEO said the package of loans and grants for the Med Tech initiative is complete and includes funds from the federal Rural

The rest of the money goes toward soft costs such as management fees and legal work, Hyde said.

The first Med Tech tenants are slated to be Genesee Community College's nursing program, United Memorial Medical Center's occupational and physical therapy offices, the GCEDC administrative offices and the University of Buffalo's Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences.

In a related matter, GCEDC vice president of marketing Chad Zambito announced that the EDC has received a second

\$500,000 state grant for the life sciences curriculum initiative for area school districts. The funding, the second \$5 million grant in two years from the state Department of Labor, encourages districts to develop life sciences academic programs to encourage students to seek careers in high technology fields.

GCEDC and the Med Tech Park are integral to the initiative. Last year the GCEDC spearheaded a

done on the recommendation of the EDC's engineering consultant, Rick Henry of Clark Patterson Lee Associates. Henry said holdups in the financing have already led to the loss of about two months of the 2009 construction season. The steel takes another five weeks from order to delivery date and there will be cost increases if the steel work ends up being done in the winter, he said.

program that paid high school teachers to attend summer science classes at GCC and also paid high school students to take science courses at the college. That program continues this summer under the guidance of administrator John Jakubowski.

School districts in Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wyoming and Steuben counties are participating in the life sciences initiative. It is for grades kindergarten through 12.