

South Point Mayor Bob Armstrong dies at age 73

August 10, 2010 @ 10:15 PM

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The Herald-Dispatch

SOUTH POINT, Ohio -- Several dozen people were on hand Tuesday for the groundbreaking of a \$2.4 million transfer center at The Point industrial park, but there was a chrome shovel that stood idle due to the death of South Point Mayor Bob Armstrong.

Armstrong, 73, died Monday evening of an apparent heart attack as he was sealing the driveway of his home in South Point, said Village Council member David Classing. Armstrong was his great uncle.

Ron West, president of village council, will take over as mayor, Classing said. Village council will meet, probably next month, to name a replacement on village council for West's seat, he said. West will serve as mayor through next year, Arthur said.

Bill Dingus, executive director of the Lawrence Economic Development Corporation, said he talked to Armstrong Monday afternoon. "We were talking about a flooding issue in South Point," Dingus said. "We were talking about running pipe across a corner of the industrial park. He loved The Point and what we were doing here."

"He was always so positive," Dingus said. "He was very soft spoken. He was a very positive leader for the community."

In honor of Armstrong, the chrome shovel wasn't used at the groundbreaking. Dr. Jack Finch, of the South Point Bible College, asked for a moment of silence in honor of Armstrong.

Armstrong was appointed mayor Feb. 19 after former Mayor Bill Gaskin died. Armstrong had served on South Point Village Council for more than 30 years before becoming mayor. Both Gaskin and Armstrong were first elected to office in 1976, said Pat Leighty, South Point administrator.

"I'm glad (Armstrong) got the chance to serve as mayor," Leighty said. "He was a good friend and a fine man. I've known him for 40 years. You're not going to find a nicer guy than Bob Armstrong. I've never seen him get mad at anyone. He was a real people person."

"He was a good man," said Marlene Arthur, a village council member who has served with Armstrong for years. "He'll really be missed. He had the interest of the people at heart."

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