

**WBOY-12 (NBC-Clarksburg, WV) - February 26**  
**5:00 PM Newscast - Biometrics Center**  
**Anne Roenker (Lori Lichorobiec/Natalie Tennant)**

**LICHOROBIEC:** A move is underway to get more people into one local downtown. But will it be enough?

Good evening, I'm Lori Lichorobiec.

**TENNANT:** And I'm Natalie Tennant. Erik is on Naval Reserve Training. It sounds pretty good. 75 more workers in downtown office space. But Clarksburg has seen about that many jobs leave in the [past] few weeks. Anne Roenker is live [in] downtown Clarksburg with more on the latest job announcement.

**ROENKER:** Natalie, this empty office space will soon be occupied. The Biometrics Fusion Center, part of the U.S. Army, will relocate their offices here for the next few years. And while temporary workers are better than empty space, many say Clarksburg needs more.

From the window inside Kaites clothing shop on Main Street, you can see the activity a normal business day brings to downtown Clarksburg.

"Just trying to stay around."

Staying around hasn't been easy for retail shops. Government and office workers make up the bulk of people who walk the downtown streets now.

So the announcement that more government workers will be coming here to Main Street is taken with sort of a "grain of salt."

"Better to have something there even if it's temporary."

By this spring, the empty building next door to Kaites will be filled with people from the Biometrics Fusion Center, currently located in Bridgeport. They'll stay until about 2006 - when a brand new center will open near the FBI complex off I-79.

The Biometrics Fusion Center works to develop the personal identifier technology for the U.S. military, using things like fingerprints and retinal scans.

The temporary offices will house 60 to 70 employees, just about the same number recently announced to be moving out of Clarksburg down the street at Dominion.

Locals say it's good that they're coming, but it would still be better if there were more places to shop and eat.

*"Are you excited about new biometrics jobs?"*

"Yes and no. It only brings life to a town from 9 to 5 and then it's dead again."

The new Biometrics Fusion Center is expected to be under construction in 2006, and to bring \$18-20 million into the local economy,

Reporting live in Clarksburg, Anne Roenker, 12 News.