

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

Valley gets \$3M in state property funds

Ex-Celotex site to be restored then sold in parcels

By Francis Scarcella
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SUNBURY — The former Knight-Celotex site is getting new life after being dead land for 13 years.

A \$2 million grant — secured by two Valley lawmakers and signed by Gov. Tom Wolf — will provide Sunbury with funds to begin restoration of the 21.83-acre property, preparing it to be sold off in pieces.

State Sen. John Gordner and state Rep. Lynda Culver met with city and county officials at the 1400 Susquehanna Ave. location Monday to make the announcement.

Gordner thanked Culver, city and county officials and especially Wolf for signing off on the project.

Gordner said there are billions of dollars of requests in the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and Sunbury was one of the requests that got answered.

“There are literally billions of dollars of projects listed and thanks to Gov. Wolf signing off on this we were able to secure the funding,” Gordner said.

Gordner said it was teamwork between himself and Culver and city and county officials.

“We have a great team together here,” Culver said.

The funds will be used to help rehabilitate and redevelop the area. The first phase of the project

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Robert Inglis/The

State Sen. John Gordner, center, talks about a \$2 million grant to help the city bury clean up the former Celotex site to be able to market it.

INSIDE

■ State Rep. Rowe secures \$1M for Al-bright Care Services, \$500K for Evangelical Community Hospital/A2



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NORTHUMBERLAND — A \$1 million state grant will help fund the construction of a new propane distribution business along Route 11 just east of Northumberland for a company that will bring at least 40 full-time jobs to the area.

State and local leaders gathered on Monday afternoon at the Point Township site located at 1240 Point Township Drive to announce that Button Holdings and Energy will benefit from grant money from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). The business focuses on the wholesale commercial and residential distribution of energy needs.

“It’s an area we’ve wanted to get into for the last few years.”



Robert Inglis/The

North Shore Railroad will transport propane to transfer station along Route 11 in Point Township Button Holdings and Energy will store it in tanks and attribute it to their customers locally.

said President Edward Button. “It’s far enough away from the terminals and ports to make it beneficial to have rail bring it, but it’s close enough to keep everything moving.”

Button joined state Rep. Lynda Schlegel Culver and Northumberland

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Ex-Celotex property to be restored then sold in parcels

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involves land acquisition costs, upgrades to utilities and storm-water systems and the installation of a traffic light, to provide ease of access.

“The completion of this project will be a major boost to the local economy, by providing a prime location for businesses to come in and establish a presence in this community,” Gordner said.

Gordner said the news of the money is big for the city.

“Sunbury is one of those places that is on the move,” he said.

Celotex shut its doors in 2008 and since that time there have been talks of the Northumberland County Jail being built on the site, a new courthouse, and various other businesses have shown some interest, but nothing ever panned out.

Now, with the \$2 million and the partnership between the city and county, the site will get prepared for resale, Commissioner Sam Schiccatano said.

“This is great news for all of us,” he said. “We are very appreciative of everything Sen. Gordner and Rep. Culver do for our county.”

\$1.5M IN GRANTS FOR UNION COUNTY MEDICAL CENTERS

Two Union County medical facilities received a combined \$1.5 million in state grants as part of the Redevelopment Assistance Capitol Program (RACP), state Rep. David Rowe announced Monday.

Rowe announced that Albright Care Services and Evangelical Community Hospital were awarded grants.

Albright Care Services was awarded \$1 million to convert a current nursing care center to a Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) Day Program. The managed care program will

provide a comprehensive, all-inclusive package of medical and supportive services. In addition, it will include renovations to an existing wing of the current nursing care center.

Evangelical was awarded \$500,000 to replace the existing 500-ton steam absorber chiller with an 850-ton magnetic bearing chiller. This will increase the capacity for chilled water, and the automatic transfer system will allow the chiller to function in the event of a power outage.

— THE DAILY ITEM

The city will be purchasing the property for \$1.5 million from the county and the county in return will be giving \$1.5 million back to the city in American Rescue Funds, as a way to help develop the land, thus not costing taxpayers a single dime, according to City Administrator Derrick Backer.

Councilman Jim Eister said he

is thrilled for the city and thankful to local leaders.

“We are doing big things,” he said. “None of this is possible without the support of Sen. Gordner and Rep. Culver. We also want to thank the county for working with us and all the work our city administrator did on this. We are excited for the future of the site.”