

## Coatesville health facility gets final OK

Brandywine Health & Housing Center scheduled to open in city in January 2008

By JENNIFER MILLER  
Staff Writer

COATESVILLE — City Council gave final approval Monday for the Brandywine Health & Housing Center.

During its public meeting, City Council members voted 6 to 0 for the project's last approval. City Councilman Ed Simpson was absent.

"We have been nothing but grateful for the city's efforts to help the project move forward as quickly as possible," said Frances Sheehan, president and CEO of the Brandywine Health Foundation.

The center, which is being developed by the foundation, will be a four-story

building with 24 housing units for seniors. It will also include offices for ChesPenn Health Services, Community Dental, the Child Guidance Resource Center and Human Services.

The center will be on the corner of East Lincoln Highway and Chester Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in November, and the center is slated to open in January 2008.

"We want to beat the winter. We want to start as quickly as possible," Sheehan said.

In the meantime, future health center tenants are growing out of their current offices. For example, Ches-Penn Health Services, which will be

moving into the new center, has an office in the 1000 block of East Lincoln Highway. In the year that the office has been open, the doctors have treated around 1,000 patients with a total of 3,000 visits, according to ChesPenn Health Services Director Bob Smith.

"The facility originally was meant to be something to hold us over until the new facility opens," Smith said in August.

While the foundation is still awaiting approval for additional state and federal funding, the project continues to move forward. Sheehan said approval of funding from the Pennsylvania Housing Financing Agency and the

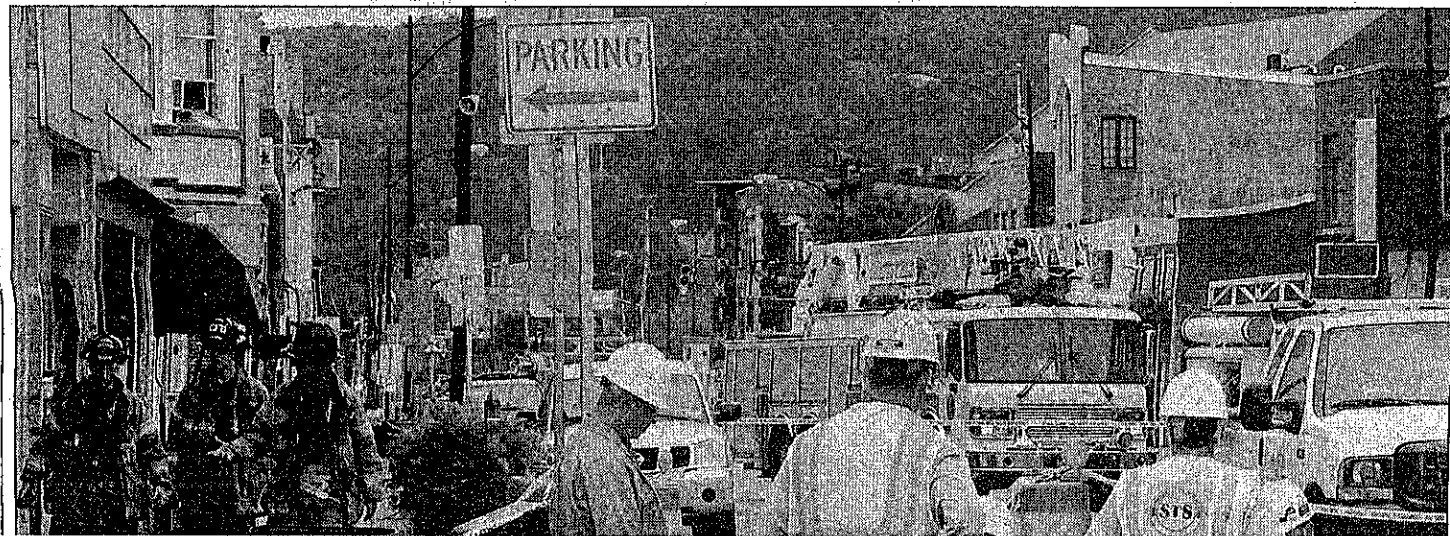
U.S. Department of Agriculture is expected within a month.

Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development, Chester County's Department of Community Development and the Federal Home Loan Bank have put a total of \$2.6 million toward the project.

The city's Redevelopment Authority also donated two properties for parking near the facility.

"We were able to secure all 10 properties needed to make the building and parking possible, and demolition of those buildings is now complete," Sheehan said.

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## Willistown to host festival

By ANNE PICKERING  
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WILLISTOWN — The township is doing its part in providing the Earth with more stewards by hosting the second annual environmental stewardship festival on Satur-