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DAILY LOCAL NEWS

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Funding completed for Coatesville facility

Brandywine Health & Housing Center scheduled to open in January 2008

By JENNIFER MILLER
Staff Writer

COATESVILLE — The Brandywine Health Foundation secured the final piece of funding for a new health and senior center that will be built here.

The state Department of Agriculture awarded the project \$3 million in low-interest, 40-year loans, and secured \$1.5 million in below-market rate private loan funds. These awards were the last needed funding aspects for the project.

And City Council gave final approval

Sept. 11 for the Brandywine Health & Housing Center.

"You work so hard to secure these funds, then you get the award. Then the real work begins," 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 facility 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.

In the meantime, future health center tenants are growing out of their current offices.

ChesPenn 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 Ches-Penn Health Services Director Bob

Smith.

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 Pennsylvania Housing Finance Authority approved Sept. 14 tax credits to finance the senior housing.

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

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