

## themorningcall.com

### Old Laneco store in Forks Township to get new life

#### Owners show remodeling plans, list new businesses

By Christopher Baxter Of The Morning Call

February 26, 2009

The dreary, brown and beige facade of the vacant Laneco supermarket building in Forks Township soon will get a face-lift more than three years after officials approved a redevelopment plan.

The Sullivan Trail complex will include Planet Fitness, Dollar Tree and a McDonald's restaurant, with the Dollar Tree slated to open by June. Renderings online of the building show a remodeled exterior with a cathedral, glass entrance.

"We know it's an eyesore and problematic," said Paul Newlin, a principal in One Up LLC, the site's developer. "We're happy to finally get something going."

Residents have long wondered whether the site at the heart of the township's commercial district might ever be revived. The shuttered one-story building -- surrounded by a large, often empty parking lot -- tarnishes the otherwise modern development in the area, said supervisor Chairman C. David Howell.

The proposed stores, Howell said, will do little to change that.

"It is the single-most vexing problem of the township as far as our commercial redevelopment is concerned," Howell said. "We have waited years to get something better than what is now suggested."

The 107,000-square-foot building was used by Laneco as a supermarket until 2001, and then briefly by Giant until the chain's new location opened down the road. The redevelopment does not include a retail area

immediately south of the former

supermarket.

Sketch plans for the site were submitted in 2004 by One Up, but the initial idea for 60 townhouses with a bank and fast-food restaurant was panned by the township. Forks officials favored more commercial development on the tract.

Supervisors a year later approved a pared-down version of the proposal, which included the fast-food restaurant, bank and two larger commercial buildings. But conditions at the old plaza since then have only deteriorated.

Shards of fluorescent lights litter the floor, metal debris hangs from the ceiling and graffiti covers the interior walls. Boards and padlocks guard the front entrance, and back doors used by trespassers have been welded shut.

Original plans called for demolishing the old Laneco and starting from scratch, but the company now plans to renovate the building, Newlin said.

Copyright © 2009, [The Morning Call](#)