

Friday, November 7, 2008

## WORD ON THE STREET

*"I'm so excited for all of them. I think they're a good team, a good foursome."*

Liz Leonard, former Upper Moreland classmate of Jill Biden, wife of Vice President-elect Joe Biden

# OUR TOWNS

The *Intelligencer*

## NOW YOU KNOW

On Nov. 7, 1962, Richard M. Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore."



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Rich Kriebel/Staff Photographer

**John Moyer**, vice president of the North Penn Regional Council of the Arts, sits behind a piano in the theater that can seat more than 200 at the Lansdale Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday. The center, located at 113 Main St., will open today.

# The arts have a new home

*The Lansdale Center for the Arts celebrates the completion of Phase I of its project with a concert tonight.*

BY LOU SESSINGER  
STAFF WRITER

When the house lights dim tonight at the new, \$6.5 million Lansdale Center for the Performing Arts, the performers won't be the only ones with opening-night jitters. "Some of our members, especially our president, have the jitters and just can't wait for Saturday morning," said John Moyer, vice president of the North Penn Regional Council of the Arts on Thursday as workmen put the finishing touches on the new arts center.

"We are very excited about opening night," said Diana Scott, the group's president. "There is an incredible sense of accomplishment that all of our hard work is coming to fruition. We hope to have a large turnout, so that we can share our enthusiasm and this beautiful new facility with the rest of the community."

The 21,000-square-foot facility, located in the renovated Masonic Temple on Main

Street, will feature a 210-seat theater, a 455-seat auditorium, art galleries, educational facilities and community rooms.

Moyer said the center might also have a restaurant in front along Main Street.

**Lansdale** The center's main entrance is off the municipal parking lot behind Main Street.

Tonight's opening celebrates the completion of the first phase of the redevelopment project, which includes the theater and art gallery on the street level and a music education facility on the lower level. Phase II will include the large auditorium on the upper level.

Opening night will feature performances by the Bucks County Choral Society, the Institute for Dance Arts and the Robin Hatfield Jazz Trio.

The Borough of Lansdale, with assistance from the Montgomery County Revitalization Program and through various grants, per-

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**Scott Smith** of Cess Cleaning applies a finishing touch Thursday before the opening of the Lansdale Center for the Performing Arts.

# Arts

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chased the Masonic Temple property in 2004. The NPRCA, a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization formed in April 2006 to provide oversight as the center's board of directors, continues to raise funds through contributions from businesses and individuals in the region.

Construction began in July 2007.

The mission of the Council of the Arts is to promote the growth of the arts in Lansdale and surrounding communities by supporting local art organizations and artists. Its goal is to make the North Penn region a place where "people are dynamically involved in and supportive of arts and culture."

Moyer, president of Moyer & Son Inc. in Souderton and a former professional musician, says the Lansdale center has the potential to become a cultural and arts hub for Southeastern Pennsylvania "from the Schuylkill to the Delaware."

The council's board is in the

process of hiring a director for the center, which will be the home of the North Penn Symphony Orchestra, Moyer said.

The old Masonic Temple was, architecturally speaking, actually two buildings. The original structure dates back to the 19th century, and an addition was built in 1912, said James J. Murphy of Devon, the architect who designed and supervised the renovation project.

The new center is very much 21st century with quality acoustics in the theater, sound system, recording capabilities, and an energy-saving heating and ventilation system and other features.

This evening's performance is scheduled to run from 7 to 9 p.m. with a reception preceding the program at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 for the performance only or \$100 for both the reception and performance.

For more information call 215-361-8312 or log onto [www.lansdalecpa.org](http://www.lansdalecpa.org).

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