

Life on the Schuylkill

O'Neill Properties finding success along the river

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O'Neill Properties Group has been busy breathing life into portions of the area where residents would not have tread.

The Upper Merion-based company is working on the second phase of its Riverview at Valley Forge project and the Millenium development in Conshohocken.

Leonard Poncia, senior vice president development principal, said both are examples of the company's mission to revitalize properties that could not be used otherwise because of dilapidated buildings or environmental obstacles.

"We find these places that become an eyesore and no one's happy with them," Poncia said. "It's a success story we all feel proud of because it's a success story we share with all the stakeholders."

The Riverview at Valley Forge development features more than 600 new luxury apartments seated amidst a 65-acre complex along the Schuylkill River near Route 422 and Trooper Road in West Norriton.

Adjacent to the residential space will be

52,000 square feet of Class A office space, located in the former Lubin Film Studios. O'Neill preserved and historically restored the five buildings that housed the studio started by Sigmund "Pop" Lubin, who produced silent films from 1912 to 1917.

Today, the office space maintains the industrial look coupled with a modern feel.

The complex also features a business center with an Internet cafe, a pool and a fitness center for residents.

"We're literally building back a town," Poncia said.

The Riverwalk at Millenium development in Conshohocken will put another 375 apartment units in the borough. Also seated along the waterfront, the expansive development features one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments. The second phase of the project will begin sales of the condominium units, Poncia said.

In all of these projects, Poncia said, O'Neill works with local municipal leaders and residents to make the developments an amicable addition to the community.

Both Riverview and Millenium will also feature access to the Schuylkill River walking trail, so its users will be able to access the developments and so residents will have prime access to the river.

Conshohocken Borough Council President Vince Totaro said the developer worked diligently to ensure the projects built transition into the area as effortlessly as possible.

"(CEO Brian O'Neill) has always been a firm believer about wanting to be a part of the community," Totaro said.

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O'Neill Properties' Riverview at Valley Forge in West Norriton features more than 600 luxury apartments along the Schuylkill. The company is adding 375 more in Conshohocken.