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## **French Creek sample house taking shape**

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**PHOENIXVILLE - The teapot is the proper color and placed on the correct burner, the drapes were hung with much care and the knick-knacks are pleasing to the eye.**

The second sample house at the Townhomes at French Creek is quickly becoming a wonderful living space. In the works since December, plans have become reality with a flurry of activity during the past week.

Several area businesses, and Susan Strohmetz, a master of Fengshui, are making sure that the furnishings in one of 152 townhomes at the former steel site are aesthetically pleasing.

Fengshui uses wind and water to bring a balance into places where people live, according to Strohmetz. Proper color and placement could add to a homeowners wealth or help those seeking a marital partner.

"Color provides everything," said Strohmetz.

Karen Phelps and Linda Buskirk of Bridge Street merchant Scarlet Begonias have furnished several of the townhome's living spaces.

An original painting by Phoenixville native Pearl Slobodian is complemented by a gas-fired fireplace and a calming light green bedspread.

"We were given four bare walls," said Phelps. "We just treated it like it was our own home that we were moving into."

Other local designers and contributors to the project include Jerry Davis of Phoenixville Antiques, the Raven and the Bear, an antique shop, Two Men and a Truck - "movers who care" - and Jaworski's Music shop.

Joseph Scott McArdle, Prudential Fox & Roach Realtors, is charged with directing the project.

"I'm glad to be able to help coordinate the local involvement," said McArdle. "And it's nice to know that the townhomes are within staggering distance to the booming downtown arts and entertainment district."

Dave Magrogan is with Kildare's and has a stake in that district with his recent purchase of the Foundry Building and the launching of a new company, Two Men and a Truck.

Magrogan is packing the townhome's garage with moving supplies as part of the remodeling. He referred to construction of the S & S development as the starting point of the borough's revitalization.

His partner, Dale Kilgariff, of Two Men and a Truck, was pleased to enter the Phoenixville market, to get the word out about his fledgling company and to help design the sample home.

Everything is for a good cause. Visitors will be asked to donate a dollar when entering the sample home. The proceeds will benefit Citizen Advocacy of Chester County.

Alicia Warner, and fellow coordinator Moira Mumma of Citizen Advocacy, enjoyed exploring the new home's surroundings.

"I'm ready to go," quipped Warner. "To move in. And I'm packing my bags."

"It feels so big inside," said Mumma about the brand new two-story sample townhome.

Citizen Advocacy is located at 205 Church Street in the borough and has been a community based, nonprofit organization which recruits, matches and offers support to local citizens involved in citizen advocacy since 1979.

"Citizen Advocacy is a means to promote, protect and defend the welfare and interests of, and justice for, persons who are impaired in competence or diminished in status, or seriously physically or socially isolated, through one-on-one unpaid voluntary commitments made to them by people who have relevant skills and resources," reads a statement distributed by Citizen Advocacy.

The sample home is open to the public for tours, Friday through Monday from noon to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m. Most of the furnishings displayed are available on consignment and the home is also for sale for \$310,000.

Yours in the Successful Revitalization, Rejuvenation, and ReInvention of Phoenixville,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead, U.S. Anthropologist