

Montgomery County YMCAs to combine at future Upper Moreland site

By Tyler Miles, Staff Writer

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Y officials plan to open a \$30 million "massive" new facility in Upper Moreland with indoor and outdoor pools, an indoor track, a gymnastics center and child care areas.

The Abington and Hatboro YMCAs soon will be sold, shut down and merged to create a new facility set to open in January 2019.

Y officials plan to open a \$30 million "massive" new facility in Upper Moreland with indoor and outdoor pools, an indoor track, a gymnastics center and child care areas, according to Shaun Elliot, president and CEO of the Philadelphia Freedom Valley YMCA Association, which manages the two locations.

"Our new building will be bigger than the two branches combined," Elliot said.

The Abington building, which is more than 100 years old, is about 65,000 square feet. The 65-year-old Hatboro building is 30,000 square feet. The new building, which will be located on about 40 acres at 3400 Davisville Road, will be more than 100,000 square feet.

Abington has about 9,000 members and Hatboro has 5,000 members.

Because of the age and wear-and-tear in those buildings, and anticipated growth in membership, Elliot said, the new building is necessary. It is expected to comfortably house 25,000 members.

Bill Mahoney, president of the Abington Y's board of directors, said the sheer size and how modern the new facility will be is the biggest benefit for members.

He thinks members, especially those used to the Abington Y, will enjoy the fitness center in the Upper Moreland Y, as the former "doesn't have the most modern equipment"

Members can continue to use the Abington and Hatboro Ys until the doors finally open at the Upper Moreland site. A fee increase is anticipated during that transition period though, however.

From the new site, the Abington location is about 2 miles away, while the Hatboro location is only 1.

"All staff in the two branches will be moving over to the new branch," Elliot said. "We'll need to hire a few more folks as well."

A sales agreement is in place for both of the Montgomery County branches, but because nothing has been finalized, Elliot declined to provide details on the potential sales.

Construction is set to begin in the fall of the structure after ruins of the Willow Grove Day Camp, which is currently defunct, are demolished.