

\$18 million Landis Square senior complex gets underway

THOMAS BARLAS Staff Writer Oct 17, 2016

VINELAND – The \$18 million Landis Square development project at the corner of Landis and East avenues has spanned nine years and three city government administrations.

It seems longer than that to developer Hans Lampart.

“Four score and seven years ago,” Lampart, president of Eastern Pacific Development, said Monday. “No, not really.”

The project finally got its ceremonial groundbreaking Monday. Actual construction will begin in about two years. The work is expected to be finished about a year later.

Landis East will have 71 units of what developers are calling “luxury living” for senior citizens. Two of those units are reserved for senior citizens with special needs. Rents for the one- and two-bedroom units will run from \$600 to \$700 a month.

The project also contains a retail component that will front Landis Avenue, and it will have a community room for residents.

Landis Square is likely to be the last corner of the so-called Four Corners project to be developed. The only other completed part of the project involved the extensive renovation of the Landis Theater.

Plans called for development of another corner that would have involved expansion of Sacred Heart High School, but the school closed in 2013. The school facility is now a training site for deacons in the Diocese of Camden.

The city also opted against developing the corner occupied by the East Landis Hotel and Bar. City officials apparently weren’t prepared to deal with the legal battle that an attempt to acquire the property could spur.

Still, Local officials trumpeted the Landis Square project Monday, saying it will be a significant part of the downtown business district’s revival.

“You will see a tremendous building,” City Council President Anthony Fanucci said. “You see a corner that was once blight, and it will now look bright.”

“It will stimulate our economy,” Mayor Ruben Bermudez said, adding the building will provide a home to senior citizens who need a place to live.

Monday’s ceremonial groundbreaking was one of three economic development events occurring this week.

Just a few blocks from Landis Square, demolition began on the former Newcomb Hospital. Developers plan to build an assisted living facility on the site.

And on Thursday, Main Street Vineland is scheduled to unveil a new logo and branding for the downtown business district.