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People's Light & Theatre Company Begins Redevelopment Project

People's Light & Theatre Company has begun expansion of its parking lot as part of an overall upgrade of the theatre company's facility. The expansion will nearly double its parking capacity to 420 cars and include a new Route 401 entranceway and signage.

According to Managing Director Grace Grillet, "we've needed these additional spaces for some time. Now we can better accommodate concurrent shows in both the Steinbright Stage and the Mainstage and get the audiences in-and-out of the parking lot with ease." Allan A. Myers Company is the principal contractor for the project.

Funds for the project, amounting to \$2 million, are being provided through a grant from the Pennsylvania Office of the Budget at the direction of Governor Edward G. Rendell under the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). The grant originally was secured through the efforts of Senator Bob Thompson and Representative Bob Flick. Presently, Senator Andy Dinniman and Representative Duane Milne are co-sponsoring the grant.

The funds were applied for in 2004 by the Chester County Industrial Development Authority (CCIDA) which currently is chaired by William S. Latoff. The Chester County Economic Development Council (CCEDC), headed by Gary Smith, is providing grant management services through the auspices of Marybeth DiVincenzo, Director of Programs and Services and Elaine Jasper, Grant Coordinator.

Managing Director Grace Grillet expressed the delight shared by her Board of Directors, chaired by L. Frederick Sutherland, that the project is fully underway. "We are very grateful to the Commonwealth and our legislators for the grant and to the CCIDA for going-to-bat for People's Light. I know our audiences will be excited with the improvements."

In addition to the parking lot expansion, the project involves enhancements to the Congden Building and the Farmhouse, upgrades to the HVAC, roofing, ticketing systems, and construction of a storage building. Dr. Camilo Rincon, a noted architect and People's Light & Theatre Company volunteer, is coordinating site construction in collaboration with Ms. Grillet.

People's Light & theatre Company is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company. Now in its 33rd Season, People's Light produces a mix of classics, new works and contemporary plays in two theatre spaces. The current season, now underway, includes *Treasure Island* (November 14 – December 30, 2007); *Crispin: The Cross of Lead* (January 17 – February 24, 2008); *The Glass Menagerie* (February 13 – March 22, 2008); *Getting Near to Baby* (March 27 – April 20, 2008); *I Have Before Me a Remarkable Document Given to Me by a Young Lade From Rwanda* (May 28 – June 22, 2008); *Sherlock Holmes & The Case of the Jersey Lily* (June 19 – July 18, 2008). For information, please call the box office at 610-644-3500 or visit www.peopleslight.org.

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