

# Deal to yield luxury homes

By Karen Mansfield For The Almanac [writer@thealmanac.net](mailto:writer@thealmanac.net)

Father and son builder and developer team William E. Thomas and Jeff Thomas, co-owners of Williamson & Jefferson Inc. of Upper St. Clair, have acquired a large parcel of land in Upper St. Clair for a planned multimillion-dollar development.

William Thomas, a veteran Upper St. Clair homebuilder who also owns Thomas Homes Inc., and Jeff Thomas, who owns JT Thomas Homes Inc., recently closed on 85 acres in Deerfield Manor - composed of 60 undeveloped acres and 21 buildable lots - at the corner of Boyce Road and Route 19 that they purchased for \$5.4 million from sellers Fairgreen Development Co. and Anvers Corp.

The transaction is the largest amount of land transferred in Upper St. Clair since the 1950s.

A majority of the undeveloped parcel will be set aside for residential development, said Patty Thomas of Wellington Real Estate of Peters Township, which specializes in new construction, resale homes, corporate relocation and is a buyer seller agency.

The 21 lots are priced from about \$250,000 and, with a new house, will run from \$1 million and up. A \$4.5 million home is being built on one of the lots, and plans for a \$7 million home are being finalized.

"It's the nicest ground in the South Hills," said Jeff Thomas, who is used to building on the region's hilly, steep topography. "This is so unbelievably level I may not know how to develop it," he quipped.

Bruce Fife of Century 21 Frontier Realty in Peters Township represented Williamson & Jefferson in the transaction.

"These will be upscale houses that, when completed on the lots will be anywhere from \$1 million to \$3 million and up. These builders are premier," said Fife of the Thomases, who have been in the building industry for five generations. "They've been building quality homes in the South Hills corridor for more than 50 years."

With this latest deal, Williamson & Jefferson adds to its portfolio another development project in Upper St. Clair, one of Southwestern Pennsylvania's most desirable suburbs. In addition to Deerfield Manor and Fox Chase in Upper St. Clair, the team is responsible for the Waterford Farms and Dominion communities, Crossgates in Peters Township and has begun work on a multimillion-dollar development at Lone Pine Country Club.

The land transfer was significant for Fife, whose family were the original settlers of what is now Upper St. Clair Township and were titled to the property under the original William Penn Land Grant in 1763.

Until the Williamson & Jefferson purchase, the largest land transaction in Upper St. Clair took place in 1957, when Fife's grandfather, Sam Fife, sold the last 90 acres of the original Fife farm.