

Happy Thanksgiving!

PENNSYLVANIA NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Erie Times-News

Breaking News: [GoErie.com](#)

Thursday, November 28, 2013

\$2.00

WEATHER

FORECAST, 8B

Mostly cloudy
with snow
29 high
22 low

DOW JONES

DETAILS, 8D

24.53 ▲
Close at 16,097.33

INSIDE



Storm snarls some travelers' plans

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\$150M BAYFRONT PROJECT INCLUDES HOTELS, SHOPS, HOUSING

Scott plan detailed

By JIM MARTIN

jim.martin@timesnews.com

Scott Enterprises, the Erie region's largest developer, doesn't own a single business in the city limits.

The company on Wednesday made public its plan to change that, and in dramatic fashion.

Two hotels, a restaurant, a floating en-

tertainment barge, more than 130 residential units, parking garages, a skating rink, retail and office space — they're all part of the company's \$150 million plan to transform 12 acres it owns along Erie's bayfront.

The project has been named Harbor Place, and officials at Scott Enterprises hope to see it become a reality in the next five years.

Nick Scott Sr., president of the company that owns Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, Peek'n Peak Resort & Spa and a long list of hotels and restaurants, detailed his plans before a crowd of more than 100 people at Blasco Library's Hirt Auditorium.

The plan aims to move well past the

► Please see **PLAN, 4A**

GOERIE

Online: See more of the Scotts announcing their plans Wednesday. Go to [GoErie.com/video](#)



FILE PHOTO ANDY COLWELL/Erie Times-News



FILE PHOTO CHRISTOPHER MILLETTE/Erie Times



FILE PHOTO/Erie Times-News



FILE PHOTO JARID A. BARRINGER/Erie Times-News

Clockwise from top left: The U.S. Brig Niagara fires its cannons during Tall Ships Erie in September; Lord Corp. officials show renovations being done at the Summit Township facility in July; crowds line up to see Elton John at the renovated Erie Insurance Arena; grapes are ready for harvest in October.

We're thankful

Sun glinted off the white sails of the historic schooners and the shining waves, as smoke from booming mock cannon fire plumed, then drifted away into the deep blue sky.

The breathtaking parade of the tall ships around Presque Isle Bay on a flawless September afternoon — that has to be one of the moments, Erie, to give thanks for this year.

Tall Ships Erie drew thousands to the bayfront, a one-time industrial eyesore now turned regional showplace. The festival — a centerpiece of the two-year Perry 200 Commemoration — smashed attendance projections and raised nearly half a million dollars, ensuring future maintenance of the U.S. Brig Niagara.

As the graceful ships glided across the bay,

the view from Dobbins Landing took in the modern framework of the Bayfront Convention Center and the Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, an area where hopes for radical transformation shifted into high gear this year.

Recently announced plans call for construction of another 200-room waterfront hotel adjacent to the convention center. And just Wednesday, Nick Scott Sr. unveiled plans for a \$150 million waterfront development to be located west and north of Blasco Library.

As Erieites sit down for turkey and the trimmings today, their gratitude will likely be focused on the loved ones facing them across the tables. In response to a [GoErie.com/](#)

► Please see **THANKS, 6A**

Story by Lisa Thompson ✉ lisa.thompson@timesnews.com

Road cameras still not working

Year later, system being fine-tuned

By VALERIE MYERS

valerie.myers@timesnews.com

Frank Schwartz drives Interstate 90 almost every day and has been stopped by accidents and bad weather more than once.

This winter, Schwartz, of Millcreek Township, would like to know more about conditions on the interstate before entering the on-ramp. He's been watching for images from traffic cameras installed along the highway more than a year ago.

But the cameras still aren't working, and there's no estimate of when they might be, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. That's unacceptable, Schwartz said.

"Someone needs to pull the plug on whoever is doing this

► Please see **CAMERAS, 4A**

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Shop smarter

Ready, set, shop! Before you head out to the stores early Friday — or even later today — get the info that you need to know, plus tips on savvy shopping. **Page 8D**

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Plan: Scotts detail project

Continued from 1A

company's original idea of building a restaurant and a hotel on the 9 acres west of the library and south to the Bayfront Parkway as well as the 3 acres at the edge of the Holland Street Pier. "This property is too valuable," said Scott, whose company bought the property in 1999. "We wanted to do something with vision," he continued. "We wanted to do something special."

That philosophy, Scott said, can be seen in the broad strokes of the plan, which uses pedestrian walkways over the Bayfront Parkway to better connect the city to its bayfront.

Plans to develop the property, which Destination Erie called "ground zero for bayfront development," also extend to smaller details, including a new use for the former Penelec smokestack.

Scott said he's looking for ways to reinvent the smokestack as a lighthouse and perhaps as a jumping off point for a zip line or bungee jump in an area of the property that would be focused on entertainment.

"We want to do something people will talk about," Scott said. "We want to put the sizzle in the steak."

Plans detailed by architect Brian Weber call for pedestrian walkways, fountains that could be transformed into a skating rink in the winter, retail stores, and 80,000 square feet of office space that would partly enclose and improve the appearance of large parking garages.

Weber said his vision for the project aims at maximizing views of the bay and opening up public space close to the water's edge.

"The key to the plan is looking for ways for the public to access the site," he said.

In an interview with the Erie Times-News, Scott said he thinks his project can complement a planned project by the Erie County Convention Center Authority at the site of the former GAF Materials Corp. plant.

But Scott, who recently paid \$1.3 million to settle a lawsuit with the authority, said he's hopeful that the authority can focus on building iconic attractions such as an IMAX Theatre.

"The GAF site is an opportunity to create tourism," he said.

Scott, who was joined Wednesday by his sons, Chris Scott and Nick Scott Jr., said his bayfront project would build on neighborhood improvement work done by Gannon Uni-



JACK HANRAHAN/Erie Times-News

Nick Scott Sr., president of Scott Enterprises, left, and his sons Nick Scott Jr., center, and Chris Scott unveil their \$150 million bayfront development plan at the Hirt Auditorium at Blasco Library on Wednesday.

The \$150 million bayfront plan

Scott Enterprises unveiled details Wednesday for a proposed \$150 million bayfront development. The proposed project would be built on 12 acres that the company has owned since 1999.



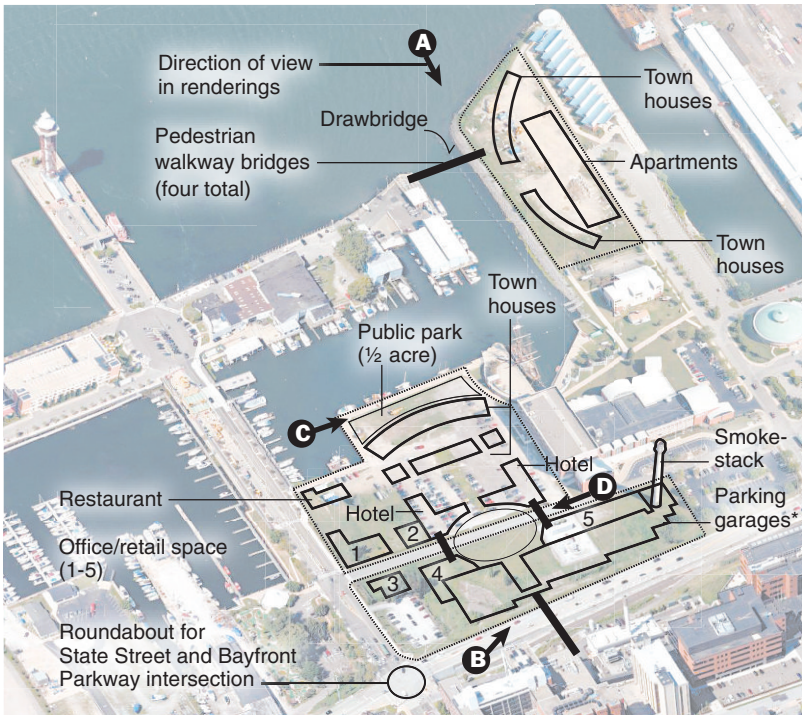
Harbor Place's sunset plaza

Would include 16 town houses, 100 apartments and a public bridge connecting to east Dobbins Landing.



Public bridge over Bayfront Parkway

Old bayfront smokestack would become a lighthouse. Bridge would connect parking garage to Hamot Medical Center. *945 spaces total.



Harbor Place's promenade

The walkway would connect the development's 21 town houses to a restaurant west of the homes.



Harbor Place's central plaza

One of two hotels are pictured on right with one of the pedestrian walkway bridges connecting to the parking garage.

SOURCES: Scott Enterprises; Weber, Murphy, Fox Architects (renderings); Google (satellite image)

CHRIS SIGMUND/Erie Times-News

versity, Erie Insurance and UPMC Hamot.

Jim Fiorenzo, president of UPMC Hamot, was on hand Wednesday to tout a project that could provide housing options for hospital employees and lodging for patients and their families.

"This is a great day for Erie," he said. "We are extremely pleased by

this announcement."

In addition to eight months of study and design work, Scott Enterprises has taken some tangible steps forward, including talks with Hilton Worldwide and purchasing a liquor license that had been held by Under the Clock restaurant on State Street.

Kim Green, executive director of the Erie Redevel-

opment Authority, said the project builds in a big way on the vision of the Union Square project.

"I think it's pretty awesome," she said. "I am really excited to see the Scotts coming into the city. I'm happy to see they believe in Erie."

William Garvey, president of the Jefferson Educational Society, said

Wednesday that he believes the project could mark the beginning of a pivotal chapter in Erie's history.

"This is a plan to stir men's souls," he said. "Erie has come of age. Erie is thinking big."

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Where traffic cameras are

Erie County's 14 traffic cameras still aren't showing traffic and weather conditions. It's not known when the cameras' data will be online to view.



INTERCHANGES OR INTERSECTIONS

- A. Interstate 90 milepost 1 eastbound near Ohio line
- B. Interstate 79/Route 6N
- C. I-90/Interstate 86
- D. I-90 milepost 46 westbound near New York state line
- E. Bayfront Parkway/State Street
- F. I-79/Lincoln Avenue
- G. Bayfront Parkway/East 12th Street
- H. I-79/West 26th Street
- I. Route 430/I-90
- J. I-79/Interchange Road (Millcreek Mall)
- K. Peach Street/Interchange Road
- L. I-90/I-79
- M. Peach Street/I-90
- N. I-90/Route 97

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

ERIE TIMES-NEWS

Cameras: System not working

Continued from 1A

system and get someone else," he said.

The traffic cameras were installed by Bruce & Merilees Electric Co. of New Castle in the summer of 2012 as part of a \$7.3 million upgrade of the state's 511 highway information system. There are 14 cameras in Erie County, one in Crawford County and others in Mercer, Venango, Lawrence and Butler counties. None is fully operational.

"They're there, but they're not working. It's very frustrating," Schwartz said.

Schwartz drives Interstate 90 between Route 8 and Peach Street several times a day, Monday through Friday. He drives his wife to work and then drives to his own job. At the end of each day, he reverses the route to the couple's home in Belle Valley.

"If there's a problem on the interstate, and I know it, I can go another way," Schwartz said.

The problem with the cameras is that they aren't producing quality images, said Jim Carroll, PennDOT spokesman in northwestern Pennsylvania.

"It's a complex system, and a

new system. It's the first of its kind in the state," Carroll said. "Technicians are still working to fine-tune it. They're looking again at the components and installations, and are doing some other things. I can't give a timeline for it."

The fully wireless camera system is a first in Pennsylvania and was chosen because it was expected to be more sophisticated and less expensive than systems in use in other parts of the state, Carroll said.

"With other systems, we would have to run fiber-optic cable, which is expensive, and pay a monthly charge for an Internet connection for each camera," Carroll said. "We picked the system because it looked like the best. And it still looks like the best, as well as the best value."

Wired traffic cameras have shown road conditions in other parts of the state for 20 years. The first traffic cameras came online along the Interstate 95 corridor near Philadelphia in 1993, PennDOT deputy press secretary Erin Waters-Trasatt said.

Today, almost 750 traffic cameras are in use statewide. Of the state's major population centers, only the Erie region is still off-camera.

"You'd think that in Erie, with

the weather that we have, we would have had cameras first, and that they'd be working," Schwartz said.

The traffic cameras are installed on metal poles along interstates 90, 79 and 86; the Bayfront Parkway; West 12th Street near Interstate 79; and Peach Street/Interchange Road. Wooden transmitter poles are in place to relay microwave signals to PennDOT's district control center in Oil City.

Images from traffic cameras in other parts of the state can be viewed at www.511pa.com. Images from Erie region cameras will be viewed on the same website when they become available.

"It's taking a while to get the system working, but it will be working," Carroll said.

Electronic message signs along the interstates as part of the \$7.3 million 511 system upgrade are working. The signs, near the interchange of interstates 79 and 90 and on Interstate 90 near the Bayfront Connector and both state lines, advised travelers to use caution in wintry conditions this week.

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O.J. lawyers vow to appeal ruling

Judge denies bid for new trial

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — O.J. Simpson has spent the last six months anxiously awaiting a judge's ruling that he hoped would spring him from the prison where he has spent the last five years on an armed robbery and kidnapping conviction. He learned of the decision from his medium-security prison in news reports Tuesday, and it was not what the former football star wanted to hear.

A judge denied his bid for a new trial on claims of ineffective legal counsel, ruling the evidence is overwhelming that Simpson "planned, organized and led" a group of armed men in a confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers six years ago.

Simpson's lawyers vowed Wednesday to keep appealing for his freedom.

"He was disappointed and disheartened, as was his family," lawyer Patricia Palm said of Simpson's reaction to the news. "But we're definitely not giving up."

Simpson is serving nine to 33 years for his conviction on armed robbery, kidnapping and other charges.

Simpson's next opportunity for freedom will be in an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court. His legal team planned to file a notice of appeal as early as next week with the state's highest court. Palm said they're also preparing a federal court claim that Simpson's fair trial rights were violated.

"He is looking forward to the appeal," Palm said. "We're confident that when we get to the right court we'll get relief because he deserves relief."

In her ruling, Clark County District Court Judge Linda Marie Bell said Simpson "failed to pinpoint significant errors that either alone or combined would have changed the outcome of his case. Additionally, Mr. Simpson has failed to demonstrate significant errors from his appeal."

Simpson was acquitted in 1995 in the stabbing deaths of his ex-wife and her friend.

Hunt: Game changes

Continued from 1A

hunted using iron sights and no scope. “It’s a lot different now. A lot safer, for one thing.”

The Roses are part of a generation of hunters who have witnessed great change in the sport over the past five or six decades.

Much of the land that once was open to hunters is now posted, thanks in part to urban sprawl. Safety regulations mean that hunters wear bright orange and must respect safety zones near homes and roads.

And although the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s figures show that the deer population is stable, many longtime sportsmen, citing mainly personal observation and anecdotal evidence, say bagging a buck, in particular, is tougher than it once was.

But that doesn’t keep hunters like Rose from taking part in what’s become a late fall ritual for an estimated 1 million licensed hunters in Pennsylvania.

He plans to join about a dozen friends and family members at the family’s 80-acre plot near Waterford on Monday morning, the opening day for firearms deer hunting.

As per tradition, they will spend the morning in the woods, then meet up at the old farmhouse around midday to swap stories and plan the rest of the day.

“I still go out, but it’s mostly for exercise now, and maybe to look for coyotes,” Rose said.

Others will pack up and drive to hunting camps in places like Pigeon, in Forest County. That’s where Edinboro resident Dave Arneman, 75, has been going for more than two decades.

Arneman began hunting in 1950, when only about 20,000 deer were harvested in Pennsylvania. He’s used the same rifle, a Remington .270 pump, nearly his entire life, and has taken 90 deer.

“I really just enjoy being at camp with the guys — my wife (June) hunts, too — and just the hunt itself,” Arneman said. “You never know from one minute to the next what’s going to happen. You might be out there for an hour or you might be out there for eight hours before you see something.”

Like many other hunters his age, Arneman believes the herd “is definitely depleted” and calls the challenge of harvest-



Dave Arneman, shown in front of one of his mounted trophies, uses both a crossbow, at left, and his rifle when he hunts for deer. Arneman has been a hunter since 1950.

ing deer today the single biggest difference from when he took up the sport at age 12.

“I could have guaranteed your grandmother a deer back in the ’70s and ’80s,” Arneman said. “Now you have to work a lot harder at it.”

Millcreek Township resident Bob Whitman, 75, is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard who retired from Penelec 19 years ago. He has hunted since he was 13 and

owned the same hunting camp near Pittsfield, in Warren County, for more than 40 years.

Over time, what was once a large group of hunters who would congregate at camp each year has gradually dwindled. Some have died, others have stopped hunting. Whitman, who has spent more time archery hunting and less time hunting with a rifle in recent years, still makes the trip each fall, sometimes alone.

Whitman, who has successfully hunted a variety of big-game animals throughout the country and in Canada, is adamant the Game Commission’s attempts to manage the deer herd have resulted in fewer deer, specifically fewer bucks.

“The antler restrictions don’t bother me,” Whitman said, referring to recent regulations designed to prevent young bucks from being harvested. “But when you’re killing as many doe

OPENING DAY

■ **When:** Deer firearms season in Pennsylvania begins Monday morning and continues through Dec. 14, with a proper license.

■ **Regulations:** Those planning to hunt should check the Pennsylvania Hunting and Trapping Digest or the Pennsylvania Game Commission website for seasons and other regulations both statewide and for specific Wildlife Management Units.

■ **Licenses and seniors:** The Pennsylvania Game Commission sold 943,583 hunting licenses in 2012. Of that total, about 117,000 licenses of some type were purchased by seniors — age 65 and older.

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Game Commission

MORE COVERAGE

In print: For Your Trophies, turn to the NWPA Outdoors page on 9C.
Online: GoErie.com/nwpaoutdoors

as you’re killing, and about half of them are (immature) bucks, I don’t see how you’re helping the buck population. I don’t mean to sound hypocritical, but I think they’ve ruined it.”

North East resident Cliff Hammer, 71, has been hunting since he was 11, starting as a farm kid with his older brother, Dave. Although he still occasionally goes to camp, he spends more time hunting near his home, often with his 9-year-old grandson.

“I like to go hunting but I’m not real big on killing stuff anymore,” said Hammer, who taught hunter education for more than 35 years. “Last year I shot a turkey just to show my grandson I could do it.”

All of the hunters interviewed for this story said hunting has undergone dramatic changes, but none has any plans to give up a sport that’s been an important part of their lives since childhood.

“I would imagine I’ll keep hunting until they have to push me out to the woods in a wheelchair,” Arneman said. “Hopefully they won’t forget me out there.”

JOHN DUDLEY can be reached at 870-1677 or by e-mail. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/ETNdudley](#).

CRIZ: Program would aid plans

Continued from 1A

those that can be used to defray development costs in a CRIZ.

The state will choose two cities for the program, and the winners are expected to be announced by Dec. 15.

The city’s application proposes a 101-acre CRIZ starting near Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair, 220 E. Bayfront Parkway, and extending west to the edge of the Erie Water Works property at 340 W. Bayfront Parkway, and from Presque Isle Bay south to the Bayfront Parkway.

City officials predicted in the CRIZ application that projects within the zone would create or retain 960 jobs, including in construction.

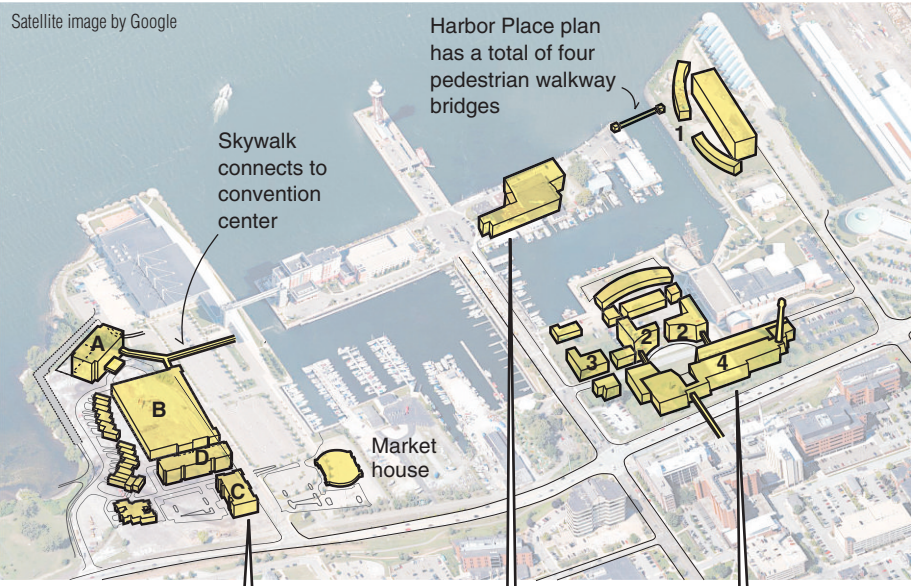
Brenda Sandberg, the city’s director of economic and community development, estimated that a CRIZ over multiple years would generate somewhere between \$60 million and \$70 million in applicable tax revenue for development use.

That money could be used to help fund a host of infrastructure improvements that enhance and support waterfront developments, including parking garages and lots, public walkways, sidewalks, and water and sewer upgrades, said Sandberg, who prepared the city’s CRIZ application.

Mayor Joe Sinnott said

Projects on Erie’s application

The city of Erie’s application for Pennsylvania’s new City Revitalization and Improvement Zone program focuses on three proposed bayfront developments.



Project’s name:	Bayfront Place	McAllister Place	Harbor Place
What site currently is:	The former GAF site	Part of East Dobbins Landing	East of State Street
Project’s details highlighted:	Six-story hotel (A), three-story parking garage with restaurant/retail shops (B), four- and five-story apartment buildings (C, D)	Condominiums, offices and retail shops	Town houses/apartments (1), two hotels (2), restaurant (3), two parking garages (4)

SOURCES: Erie County Convention Center Authority; Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority; Scott Enterprises

CHRIS SIGMUND/Erie Times-News

the city is focusing on the bayfront “because right now, that is the primary area where we could see potential developments that would benefit from this.”

The city’s application focuses on:

■ The Bayfront Place project at the former GAF site. About \$7 million in state money is financing an environmental cleanup currently underway there.

Preliminary plans include a 425-space parking ramp, a park area, apart-

ments, town houses, a year-round marketplace, shops and restaurants. The Erie County Convention Center Authority, which owns the property, also plans to build a midpriced hotel near the adjacent Bayfront Convention Center to free

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

CRIZ makes select Pennsylvania municipalities, including Erie, eligible to establish revitalization areas using certain tax revenues generated by businesses within the CRIZ to fund improvements, eliminate blight and attract new business.

Third-class Pennsylvania cities with populations of more than 30,000 are eligible to establish a CRIZ of up to 130 acres, as long as those cities are not part of Pennsylvania’s Act 47 program for financially distressed municipalities.

Erie and seven other cities qualify: York, Lancaster, Reading, Altoona, Wilkes-Barre, Chester and Bethlehem.

Taxes generated by businesses and/or individuals in the CRIZ that may be used for redevelopment include corporate net income taxes, sales taxes, earned income taxes, amusement taxes and liquor taxes.

Any CRIZ must include, at a minimum, private financing equal to 20 percent of the tax revenue directed toward a zone.

SOURCE: Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

ONLINE EXTRA

To learn more about CRIZ, go to [www.newpa.com](#).

up space for other amenities on the GAF property.

■ Scott Enterprises’ Harbor Place, which could take up to five years to develop on 12 acres the company owns near the Blasco Library on the east bayfront. Details were announced last week.

The plan includes two hotels, a restaurant, a floating entertainment barge, more than 130 residential units, parking garages, a skating rink, and retail and office space.

Asked how a CRIZ could affect his project’s scope and timetable, Nick Scott Sr., president of Erie-based Scott Enterprises, said: “It

would not affect our intention and desire and our ability to do something. It just won’t be as grandiose if we don’t have the CRIZ.”

■ McAllister Place, a long-planned Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority project on East Dobbins Landing. It includes 17 condominiums or apartments; 42,000 square feet of office space; retail space; and more than 200 indoor parking spaces in a building with front and rear water views.

The authority has solicited proposals from developers.

KEVIN FLOWERS can be reached at 870-1693 or by e-mail. Follow him on Twitter at [twitter.com/ETNflowers](#).