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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Receives \$218,643 to Clean Up Abandoned Sunny Vee Nursing Home

DELAWARE, Ohio (Dec. 21, 2022) – The Delaware County Land Reutilization Corporation, more commonly referred to as the Delaware County Land Bank, was recently awarded \$218,643 to clean up the property located at 54 W. Lincoln Ave. in Delaware.

Megan Meadows, chief of the Community Services Division of the Ohio Department of Development, made the announcement in a letter to the Delaware County Land Bank.

The funds were made available through the Department of Development’s Brownfield Remediation Grant Cleanup/Remediation Program.

The clean-up site is the old Sunny Vee Nursing Home, which has been abandoned for about 18 years. The Victorian house, built in the 1870s, was a private residence and a fraternity house before being converted to a nursing home. A large annex was added to the original building.

Sunny Vee’s owners owed more than \$150,000 in delinquent property taxes when two county foreclosure auctions failed to produce a buyer. The property reverted to the state before being sold at an auditor’s auction for \$100,000.

“This is a great day for the city of Delaware and the Northwest Historical District in general, and the residents near West Lincoln Avenue and Franklin Street in particular,” said Delaware County Treasurer Donald E. Rankey Jr., who has a staff member represented on the Delaware County Land Bank. “The people in that neighborhood have had to look at this eyesore for nearly two decades. Obtaining this grant will go a long way toward restoring this magnificent house. The brownfield grant program through the Ohio

Department of Development is a valuable tool in returning blighted properties to income-producing properties for the county.”

The building went up for auction in March and was purchased by Geoffrey Stafford and Jordan Lewis, both of London, Ohio.

Stafford said that he and his newlywed wife were “ecstatic” to learn of the grant. He said they plan to renovate the house and use it as their primary residence.

“We are excited to get started on this project and so incredibly thankful to the treasurer’s office, the land bank, and everyone who helped make this possible, especially Jeff Jordan of the treasurer’s office, who prepared the grant proposal,” Stafford said. “We can’t wait to turn this into our dream house.”

The Ohio Brownfield Remediation Grant Cleanup/Remediation Program is designed to provide grants for the remediation of brownfield sites across Ohio. The goal is to clean up the sites and prepare them for future economic development.

“This is an important day for Delaware County,” Rankey said. “We need to continue taking advantage of this valuable program to combat eyesore properties in our county.”

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