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Ex-Neat Feat in shambles

By Felicia A. Petro/Staff Writer
Allied News | Feb 19, 2011



The former Neat Feat skating rink in Pine Township collapsed Sunday under the weight of snow on the roof of the vacant building.

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After sitting vacant for over four years, a Pine Township roller rink collapsed on Sunday night.

"It blew the walls clear across the neighbor's driveway and the insulation blew up into trees," said Pine assistant fire chief Joe Holmes.

"It was quite an event."

About 25 firefighters assisted at the scene for about two hours.

The neighbor reported an "explosion" around 9 p.m. Sunday at the former Neat Feat roller rink, he said. The building is at 890 N. Broad St. Ext. on Route 173, across from Crestview Memorial Park.

"They looked outside and part of the building collapsed, where the actual skating rink was. The roof came down and the air inside gushed out and pushed with all the weight."

Holmes believed the weight of the snow on the roof of the roller rink, and it not being heated for several years, made it collapse, he added.

The wall closest to the neighbor's driveway had been leaning out for a while, Holmes said.

The township was called to bring in its front loader to push the debris back toward the building, off the neighbor's driveway, he noted.

"The walls are wood. That was easier than us cutting them up and moving them by hand."

The wall at the other end of the building, the former entrance, is also giving out.

"Eventually, the township is going to have to do something to take the building down," Holmes said. "It's a hazard."

The wall facing Route 173 has been leaning toward the road since the collapse. "If the wall goes down, some of those bricks can fly out into roadway," he added.

Before the collapse, the commercial building was listed for sale at \$115,000 with Howard Hanna Realtors in Grove City, said Faith Malutich, office manager.

It has been for sale for 4 years, she noted.

A bank acquired it about 1 year ago after the owners went into bankruptcy, she noted.

Thomas and Sheri Rosak bought the property and rink in 1993, according to a representative from the Mercer County recorder of deeds.

"The bank has been contacted," Malutich said. "It's unsafe, but it's not (Howard Hanna's) responsibility."

Now that Howard Hanna is waiting for the bank's word on the site, which includes 1.4 acres of land, there is no listing for the property.

The assessed value in 2010 was \$28,500 for the property, with a bill of nearly \$2,260 in property taxes, said Carrie Steese, Pine tax collector.

Firefighters called in Dominion Peoples to make sure the gas was turned off at Neat Feat, and it was, Holmes said. Penn Power was called to shut off the electricity.

He was unable to estimate the amount of damages to the property.

"I wouldn't have any idea, or whether building is even salvageable," Holmes said.

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 201 A Erie St.
 Grove City, PA 16127
 Phone: 724-458-5010
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