

New owner to redevelop Salina landmark Le Moyne Manor (photos)







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A portion of architect Ward Wellington Ward's home, the original Le Moyne Manor, in Salina can be seen in this photo. The home, built in 1916, was sold after his death in 1932 and turned into a restaurant and later a banquet facility. (Rick Moriarty | rmoriarty@syracuse.com)
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Salina, N.Y. — A developer has purchased the Le Moyne Manor banquet facility and inn on Old Liverpool Road and plans to redevelop the landmark property with a retail building and apartments.

David Muraco bought the vacant property at 629 Old Liverpool Road for \$200,000 in May from Vesta Community Housing, of Albany.

Vesta acquired the property in 1998 and used its hotel up until about a year ago as a halfway house for people recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. It also operated the banquet facility for a number of years but [discontinued that business](#) in 2011 after years of losses.

Muraco said he plans to demolish the banquet facility and build a 20,000-square-foot retail building in its place. He said he has a tenant lined up for the building but cannot yet disclose its name.



Developer David Muraco plans to redevelop the landmark Le Moyne Manor banquet facility and inn in Salina into a mix of retail space and apartments. (Matthew D. Vredenburg Landscape Architecture) *Matthew D. Vredenburg Landscape*

Muraco said he plans to enlarge the facility's hotel, either by adding a third floor or by expanding the building's footprint, and turning it into 64 "chic" apartments, some with views of Onondaga Lake.

Once a popular location for social events and business meetings, the banquet facility has fallen into serious disrepair, with significant damage from roof leaks and vandals.

"It's had its useful life," Muraco said. "It's over with."

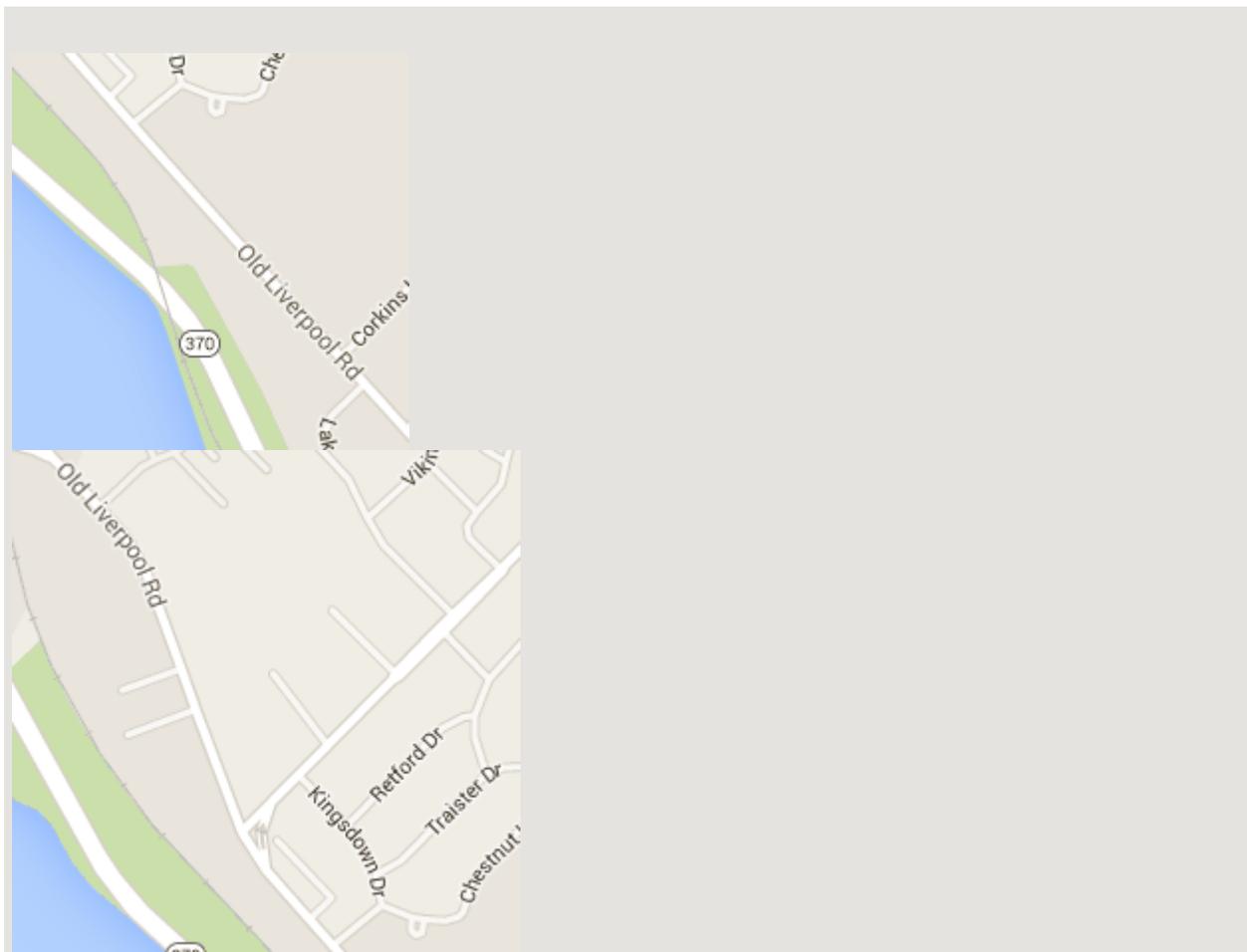
As part of the redevelopment, Muraco wants to restore the little-noticed "Jesuit Well" between Le Moyne Manor and Onondaga Lake Parkway.

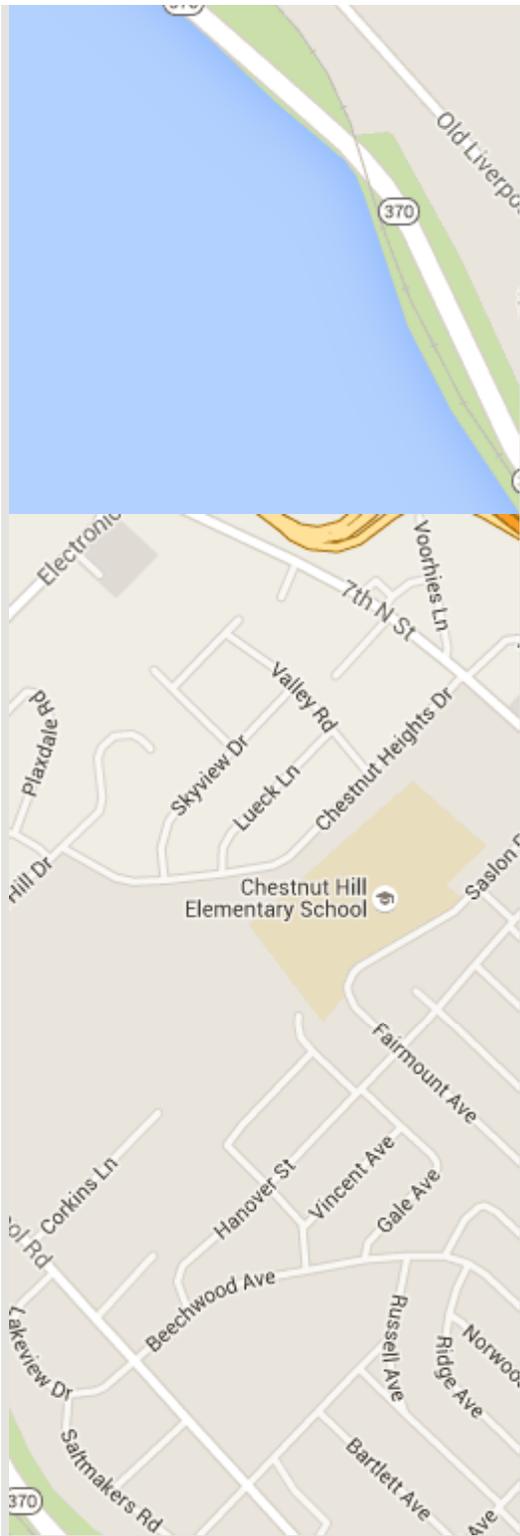
The replica well was built in 1933 to mark the spot reputed, but never proven, to be where [Father Simon Le Moyne](#) became the first European to discover the salt springs around Onondaga Lake in 1654. The well, which is

owned by the Onondaga Historical Association, has fallen into disrepair and is hidden from view from the parkway by overgrown grass.

"I'd just like to see some type of connection," Muraco said. "Maybe a stone path. We just have to figure out how to get it maintained."

The Le Moyne Manor property itself has historical significance. It is believed that a portion of the property is the site where French missionaries built a fort and occupied it for a year before returning to Canada. (A replica of the fort was built in 1933 a short distance to the north and was recently redeveloped by the Onondaga Historical Association as a [cultural center](#) honoring the history of the Onondaga Nation and Onondaga Lake.)





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In 1916, famed architect Ward Wellington Ward built a house on a 5-acre lot off Old Liverpool Road for himself and his wife, the former Maude Moyer, and called it Le Moyne Manor. His wife sold the home after Ward's death in 1932, and it was later developed into Le Moyne Manor Restaurant by [Frank Montanaro](#).

Over the years, Montanaro greatly expanded the building, adding large banquet rooms and a separate building containing a hotel. He retired and sold the property in 1992.

Portions of the exterior of Ward's home can still be seen at the entrance to the banquet facility, but the interior of the facility retains little of the home's interior, except for a fireplace.

Muraco's son, Louis, who oversees commercial leasing at his father's company, [Empire Management Co.](#), is working with his father on the redevelopment of the property.

Muraco's other developments include Suburban Park Apartments in Manlius, the Applebee's restaurant in North Syracuse, the Aldi grocery store in Cazenovia and University Mall in Canton.

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