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FW Planning Board Passes Revised Redevelopment Plan

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments voted to recommend to the Borough Council several new revisions to the Revised Downtown Redevelopment Plan (RDRP), while rejecting other revisions at their regular meeting on Wednesday, September 28.

The divided vote was made after hearing a report outlining the proposed changes, presented to the board by Janic Sunyak of Schoor DePalma, Engineering Consultants for the RDRP. These recommendations will be forwarded to the borough council, which can be accepted, rejected or modified in whole or in part.

Board member Andy McDonald,

who stated that he felt the board was rushing an important decision, made the lone dissenting vote. Mr. McDonald admonished the board, stating, "Something in the way we're doing this is not making sense."

There was considerable disagreement amongst board members over what aspects of the redevelopment plan were at issue and whether they were supposed to be discussing particular design details of specific developments or general design concepts for future developments.

Board attorney Robert Mega stated that the board was getting sidetracked and bogged-down on specific interests, when they should have been focusing on general revisions to the RDRP.

Two of the downtown developers,

Michael Marcovecchio and Enchantments Properties, previously came before the borough council and the planning board signing developer's agreements with the borough. Those applications and any related conditions or variances approved would not be affected by the new revisions Frank Regan, special counsel to the board for the RDRP, explained.

The new recommendations could, however, affect the third developer, Landmark, in their negotiations with the borough regarding the Dean Oil site. The Dean Oil site, also referred to as the residential part of the RDRP, has been contract-purchased by Landmark to develop 24 townhouses, with 48 garages if approved.

The revisions recommended by Schoor DePalma outlined several changes to the RDRP based on the need to clarify certain ambiguities, which surfaced during the first two downtown redevelopment hearings, Ms. Sunyak explained.

Of great concern to the board and to the public since the early development stages of the RDRP has been building height and density in the residential area.

The final outcome of the RDRP was devised with input from both residents and merchants incorporating their concerns into the plan's design.

Several residents voiced their concerns to the board about revisions that were being voted on at the present meeting without notifying the entire town of what they considered to be "major" changes to the plan, specifically changes regarding building height and density.

Board Chairman Gregory Cummings, in a letter to Councilman Joseph Higgins, expressed his views that he agreed that these changes were "major" and not "minor." However, at September's agenda meeting, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr stated that these revisions were "minor" and merely clarified ambiguity in the language of the plan.

The board voted on accepting all of the recommendations regarding the retail/residential area and rehabilitation infill area, which includes mixed-use buildings fronting onto Martine and South Avenues. Those changes included clarification of how parking requirements would be calculated. Existing sidewalk widths were recommended as adequate, which eliminated the need for an additional

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GOP Appeals Appellate Court McWilliams Reversal

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The Union County Republican Committee has filed a challenge in the New Jersey Supreme Court to a three-judge appellate panel ruling on Monday that overturned a lower court's decision that Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams cannot run for reelection as a Republican.

Mayor McWilliams, seeking a third term as mayor of Union County's third largest municipality, initially won his challenge before State Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonek, the Union County Assignment Judge, last week.

The Appellate Court, which reviews superior court decisions, submitted its brief one-page decision Monday afternoon just four hours after the deadline for legal briefs from attorneys in the case.

Mr. McWilliams was dumped from



Benjamin B. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
CLOWNING AROUND... Kids had fun with the clown and kept him very busy making balloon animals at Fanny Wood Day, which was held this past Sunday.

Scotch Plains Deer Reduction Program Remains Stalled

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township's long-delayed efforts to conduct a deer reduction program in the Ashbrook Reservation are now being held up. Difficulties in arranging a meeting with two local bow-hunting groups that could be involved in the initial efforts at thinning the burgeoning herd are the reason.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins told the township council at its conference meeting on Monday that Union County officials have been trying to set up a meeting with United Bowhunters of New Jersey and the Cranford Rod and Gun Club, but has not received a response.

The township's desire for a deer reduction program on the county-owned Ashbrook property is in the hands of county officials, who will have to decide whether to accede to a wish by state officials that any deer management program using professional riflemen be preceded first by what could be a week-long effort by bow-and-arrow hunters.

Township officials said the Department of Environmental Protection's fish and wildlife division will not issue a deer control permit to thin the deer herd via a professional firm using rifles without first giving bow-and-arrow hunters an opportunity to reduce the number of deer in the reservation.

Mr. Atkins expressed some concern that the state might look negatively upon Scotch Plains' permit application "because we can't get a

meeting together."

Local and county officials have expressed some concerns about non-professionals with bows-and-arrows in the reservation and also about how such a method might affect the adjacent county-owned Ashbrook Golf Course because the county does not want to have to close the facility if a bow-and-arrow effort takes place during the golf season.

Mayor Martin Marks has called the

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Betsy Burdorf for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
CLINTON STOMPS FOR CORZINE... Senator and candidate for governor, Jon Corzine, shakes hands with former President Bill Clinton during last Thursday's rally at Kean University in Union.

President Clinton Attends Rally to Support Corzine

By BETSEY BURGDFORF
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

UNION - Former President Bill Clinton united with gubernatorial candidate Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ) last Thursday at a rally held in the Harwood Arena at Kean University in Union. The rally began the start of what Senator Corzine is calling his "40 Days to Victory" campaign.

Although the rally was to highlight Senator Corzine and his platform, Mr. Clinton commanded the podium, as well as the spotlight.

Prior to the candidate's and Mr. Clinton's arrival, the atmosphere of the arena was similar to that of a rock concert. U2 pumped through the sound system and participants were dancing in their seats.

Crowds of people wearing colorful t-shirts emblazoned with their union, their cause or their decree were scattered throughout the stadium. Groups chanted, while waving signs that read "Corzine for Governor."

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-15) introduced Senator Corzine to the crowd as the next governor of New Jersey.

"Are we excited?" Senator Corzine asked, referring to the fact that Mr. Clinton was in their midst.

"I want people to know that Democrats stand for the right thing," he said. "We have to make choices that will make a difference in New Jersey."

Senator Corzine concluded his speech saying, "The last thing I want to say -

We can change what people's expectations are about public servants. Public service is about serving you. I want to make sure the people of New Jersey know we're going to serve their needs."

Senator Corzine ended his discourse by introducing Mr. Clinton. He cited the former president's appearance as the real reason supporters attended the rally.

After a moment of thunderous applause, Mr. Clinton quickly hushed the crowd. "You have to stop that or I'll forget I'm not president anymore," he joked in his southern drawl.

He continued saying, "I came here tonight for two reasons: I care about this state, you were good to me. And second, I not only like, I profoundly admire Jon, your next governor."

Mr. Clinton talked about Senator Corzine's plan to reduce the tax burden on the middle class and the elderly; putting a college education and buying a home within reach and lowering the cost of health care.

"New Jersey has had tough times," Mr. Clinton said. "But if you ever needed a governor who's smart, experienced and full of great ideas - and capable of implementing them - it's Jon."

Mr. Clinton talked about how Senator Corzine fought successfully to help the families of 9/11, and how he fought to protect the environment in New Jersey, as well as the coastline. "He believes in New Jersey," Mr. Clinton said, referring to Senator Corzine. "He always puts people first."

Fanwood Marks 110th Anniversary With Concert, Annual Street Fair

By MARIA WOEHRE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

FANWOOD - Fanwood celebrated its 110th birthday this week. Residents rocked in the borough's anniversary at the Community House Park on Martine and North Avenues with an outdoor performance by The Fabulous Greaseband, hosted by Mayor Colleen Mahr and the Fanwood Arts Council this past Saturday.

The free concert was funded by a \$1,200 grant given by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Unity Bank donated the rest of the \$1,800 for the concert.

"For our 110th birthday, I wanted to give the community something special and partner it with Fanny Wood Day, which celebrates our diversity and the individuals who have made

an impact in our town," Mayor Mahr said.

Fanwood celebrated the 10th annual Fanny Wood Day on Sunday, October 2. The day commemorates the community and recognizes the contribution of individuals in the community with the honor of naming Mr. and Mrs. Fanny Wood.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Fanny Wood were recognized at the outdoor concert and received certificates of accomplishments at the festival.

"We asked several members of the community to submit résumés and essays explaining why they should represent Fanwood. I don't think we could have gotten a better pair of people to do it," Borough Councilwoman Donna Dolce said. "They are outstanding citizens who have contributed to the community through involvement and volunteer work."

Dorris Terry, a 47-year resident of Fanwood, who has served as a Boy Scout Den Mother, volunteer and the community Easter Bunny, was chosen to represent Mrs. Fanny Wood.

"I'm really excited. This is such a wonderful place to live and a wonderful community to grow up in," she said.

Respectively, Fanwood's Santa Claus, Jim Grover, Lion's member, and resident for 33 years was chosen to represent Mr. Fanny Wood.

"It is such an honor to be chosen to represent this town," he said.

After the recognition, The Fabulous Greaseband, a Central New Jersey group, entertained a crowd of close to a hundred with a host of tunes from legendary rock and roll artists.

"We chose the Greaseband because their music appeals to all ages," Mayor Mahr said.

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
CELEBRATES... Mr. and Mrs. Fanwood, disguised as Dorris Terry and Jim Grover, head the 10th Annual Fanny Wood Day celebration last Sunday.

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